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Resumption of Japan's boiling water reactors may be delayed

TOKYO, Jan. 17, Kyodo

A member of Japan's Nuclear Regulation Authority said Thursday that boiling water reactors will not be allowed to resume operation unless they are equipped with venting systems with filters that can reduce the amount of radioactive substances when pressure is released from reactor containers during emergencies.

Of the 50 commercial reactors in Japan, 26 are BWR reactors -- the same type as the ones that suffered core meltdowns in the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster. Most of them have venting systems, but the systems do not have filters.

"Without this (filtering systems), reactors will not reach the level" to be allowed to operate, said Toyoshi Fuketa, a commissioner of the NRA, which is crafting new safety standards for reactors in the wake of the nuclear crisis.

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