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Review of Japan's nuclear policy suspended

The government has decided to suspend discussions on revising Japan's nuclear policy until the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi power plant is over.

The Cabinet Office's Atomic Energy Commission met on Tuesday for the first time since the March 11th earthquake and tsunami crippled the plant.

The commission said it is taking the accident at the nuclear plant under the gravest consideration and that it has shaken the country's basic confidence in atomic power generation.

Last year in December the commission launched discussions for revising the national outline on the use of nuclear energy.

The current outline was formed in 2005. It covers basic policies on the use, research, development and promotion of nuclear power.

The commission says it will decide its next step depending on developments at Fukushima and how the national debate on Japan's energy policy evolves.

The commission chief, Shunsuke Kondo, said there is no denying that there are defects in Japan's nuclear safety standards. He added that the commission's existence itself could be questioned in the future and ruled out any new moves by the regulatory body until the Fukushima crisis is resolved.

Kondo suggested that the accident at the plant will have a major impact on the government's policy on the use of nuclear power in Japan.

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