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Power loss drill at nuclear plant in Aomori Pref.

Tohoku Electric Power Company has conducted a drill at one of its nuclear plants in northeastern Japan to prepare for a potential total loss of external power to one of its reactors in an emergency.

The company's Higashidori nuclear power station in Aomori Prefecture lost all its external power supply in an aftershock on April 7th. An emergency diesel backup generator began cooling the reactor, but the generator failed shortly after external power was restored.

Wednesday's drill was held based on the scenario that both the external power and the backup generator had been lost.

Workers confirmed the procedures for starting up an emergency power truck, which was deployed late last month, and connecting its cables to the plant's facilities.

Tohoku Electric Power Company says the power truck works for only 2-and-a-half hours before it needs to be refueled with light oil. The plant has some fuel in stock, but the company says it needs to reinforce the fuel stock.

Plant chief Shun Tsubata pledged to address these issues and improve the plant's safety.

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