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Govt. explains Genkai nuke plant safety measures

The Japanese government held a meeting in Saga Prefecture, western Japan, on Friday to tell local residents about safety measures being taken to enable nuclear reactors in the area to be restarted.

The meeting concerned 2 reactors at the Genkai nuclear plant. It was the second of its kind since the crisis at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant began in March. About 370 local residents attended.

An official from the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency apologized for causing confusion among local residents by abruptly deciding to perform extra safety tests on all nuclear reactors in Japan. He said the Genkai plant is already safe because of emergency measures taken by his agency after the earthquake and tsunami in March.

One local resident said the government should have performed the extra safety tests before declaring the Genkai plant safe. Another questioned whether it is appropriate to restart the Genkai plant's reactors before the Fukushima Daiichi plant is brought under control.

Genkai Town Mayor Hideo Kishimoto reacted to the government's decision to perform extra safety tests by retracting his approval for restarting the reactors at the Genkai plant.

Saga Governor Yasushi Furukawa said he will postpone a decision on whether to allow the reactors to be restarted.

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