



# NRC NEWS

**U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

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## NRC IN COMMUNICATION WITH JAPANESE REGULATORS

Officials at Nuclear Regulatory Commission headquarters in Rockville, Md., have spoken with the agency's counterpart in Japan, offering the assistance of U.S. technical experts. Should the Japanese want to make use of this expertise, NRC staffers with extensive background in boiling-water reactors are available to assist ongoing efforts.

The NRC is coordinating its actions with other Federal agencies as part of the U.S. government response. The NRC is examining all available information as part of the effort to analyze the event and understand its implications both for Japan and the United States. The NRC's headquarters Operations Center is operating on a 24-hour basis.

U.S. nuclear power plants are built to withstand environmental hazards, including earthquakes and tsunamis. Even those plants that are located outside of areas with extensive seismic activity are designed for safety in the event of such a natural disaster. The NRC requires that safety-significant structures, systems, and components be designed to take into account the most severe natural phenomena historically estimated for the site and surrounding area.

For background information on generic operations at a [boiling-water reactor](#), including an [animated graphic](#), visit the NRC's website at [www.nrc.gov](http://www.nrc.gov).

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