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Putin voices Russian concerns

Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin says the situation at Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant is not improving and has instructed his government to continue closely monitoring radiation levels in areas near Japan.

Putin said this at a meeting on disaster measures with Emergency Ministry officials and meteorological experts on Tuesday.

He said the situation at the nuclear power plant has not improved and that his country must be absolutely sure of the reliability of information concerning Russian territories.

Putin also said Russia must monitor the situation closely.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev has urged the governor of Sakhalin to ease anxiety among residents by keeping them informed about radiation levels.

Medvedev says the Japanese government does not yet have complete control over the nuclear accident.

Russia has been monitoring radiation levels at 630 locations in the Far East. Its aircraft and ships are surveying the atmosphere and seawater in areas near Japan. Russia says radiation levels so far are normal.

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