

Institute plans Alaska reactor project

Fantastic - Japan building a sodium-cooled reactor in the US

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A Japanese energy research institute said Tuesday that it would request pre-application reviews with the U.S. government to locate a small advanced nuclear reactor in a town in Alaska.

If approved, it would be the first Japanese-made nuclear reactor to be run in the United States, the Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry said.

The institute will apply to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to set up the 4S reactor in Galena, Alaska. The reactor would run almost unattended, put out 10 megawatts of power and have a 30-year core lifetime without refueling.

The institute developed the reactor with Toshiba Corp. The 4S would be installed underground.

The town government hopes to introduce the sodium-cooled, sealed fast reactor as an alternate to diesel electric power generation.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission encourages preapplication reviews prior to a formal license application to offer licensing guidance and identify and resolve potential licensing issues early in the process.