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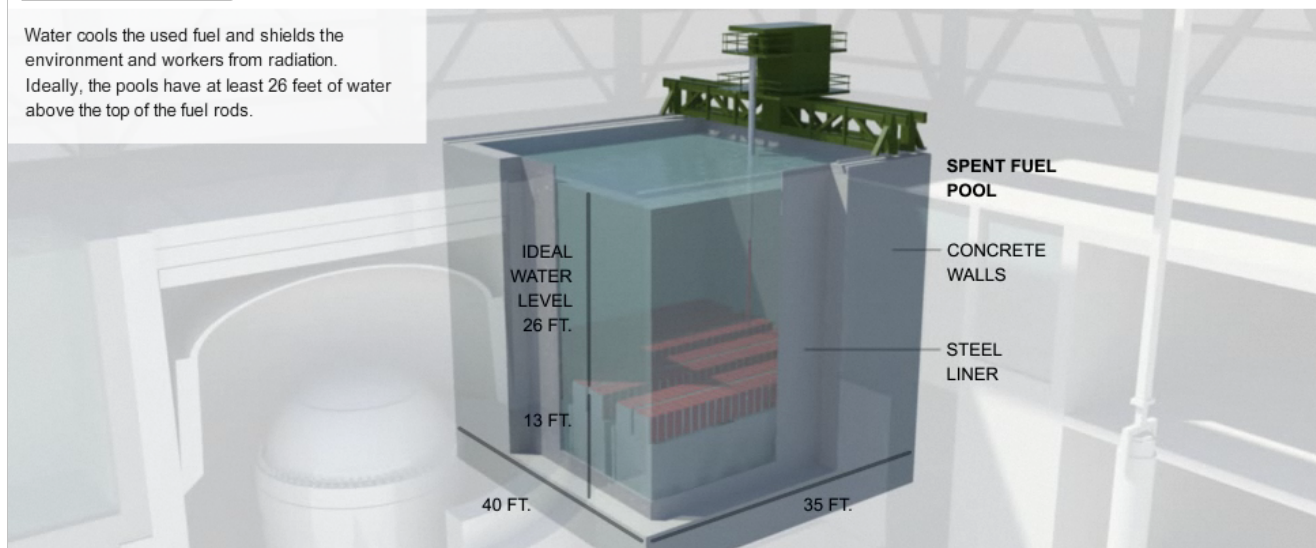
UPDATED March 18, 2011

Hazards of Storing Spent Fuel

Dangerous conditions can occur if water drains from pools storing radioactive fuel rods.

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Water cools the used fuel and shields the environment and workers from radiation. Ideally, the pools have at least 26 feet of water above the top of the fuel rods.



By XAQUÍN G.V., BILL MARSH, DYLAN McCLAIN and GRAHAM ROBERTS | Send Feedback

Sources: Nuclear Energy Institute; David A. Lochbaum, Union of Concerned Scientists; Margaret Harding, 4 Factor Consulting; Arnold Gundersen, Fairewinds Associates; International Atomic Energy Agency

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NYTimes.com asked readers to send photographs from areas affected by the earthquake and tsunami. Here is a selection of images.



Interactive Feature

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