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The New York Times

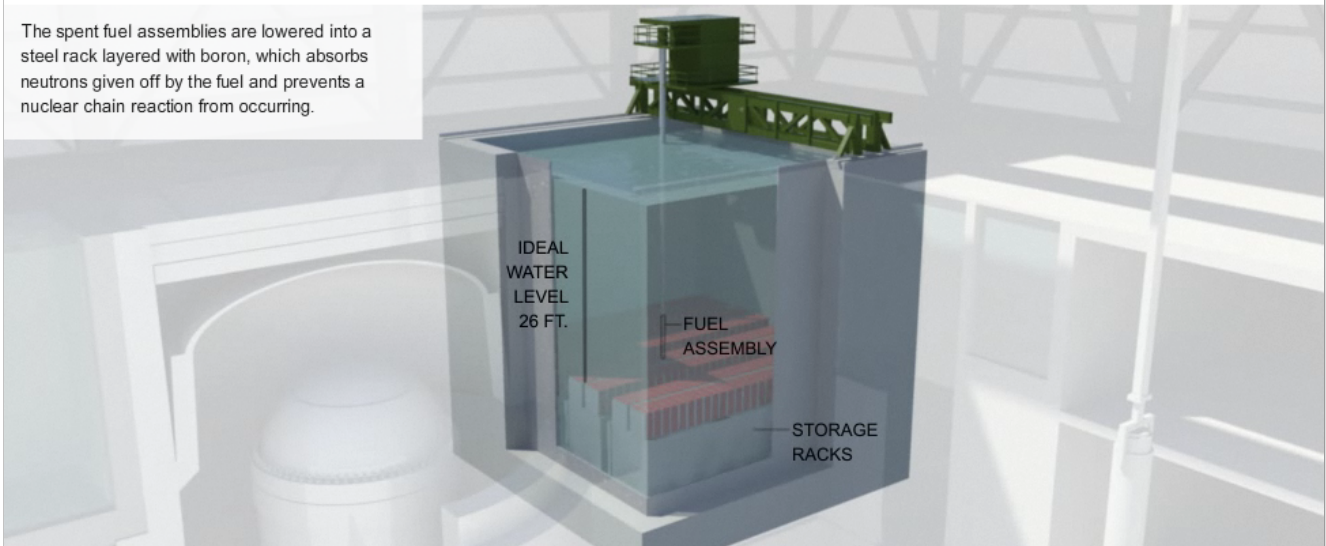
UPDATED March 18, 2011

Hazards of Storing Spent Fuel

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

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The spent fuel assemblies are lowered into a steel rack layered with boron, which absorbs neutrons given off by the fuel and prevents a nuclear chain reaction from occurring.



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

Satellite Photos of Japan, Before and After the Quake and Tsunami

Compare satellite images of areas of Japan before and after the disaster.

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