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global clean energy forum
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 June 15-16, 2011
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UPDATED March 24, 2011

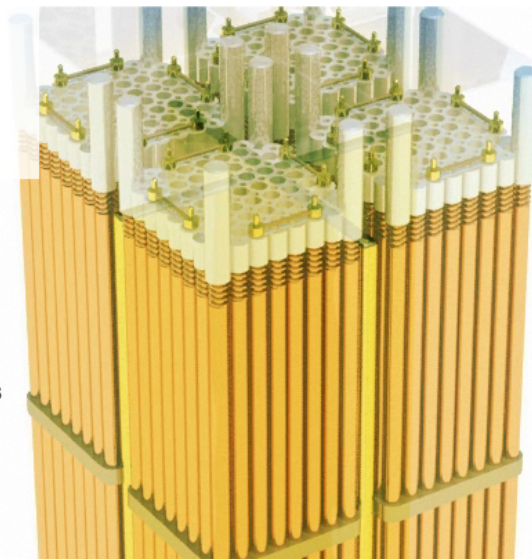
How a Reactor Shuts Down and What Happens in a Meltdown

The operating reactors at Fukushima Daiichi power station automatically shut down during the earthquake. But after cooling failures, two of them went into partial meltdown.

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In Japan, there was no electricity to run the cooling system. Operators added water, intending to vent the steam and replace the water as it evaporated. But the water boiled away faster than they could replace it.

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 Gunderson, Fairwinds Associates; International Atomic Energy Agency

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