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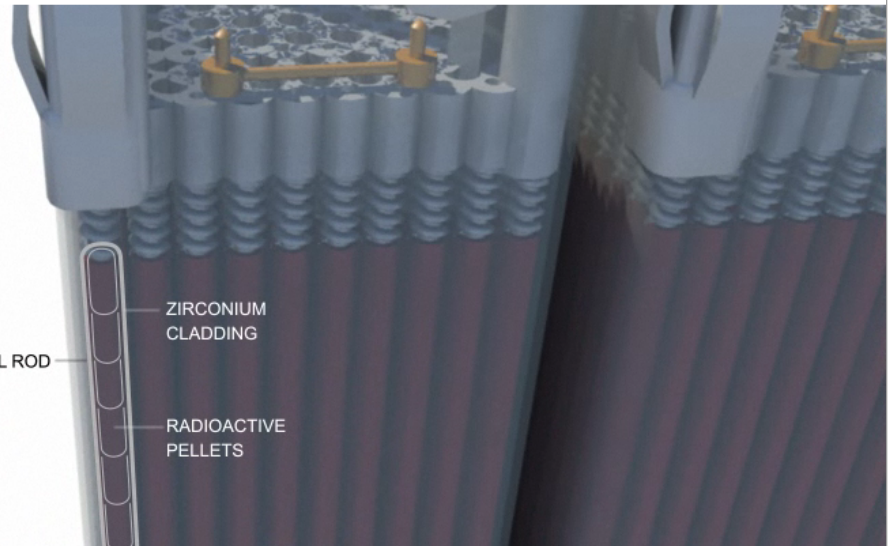
UPDATED March 18, 2011

Hazards of Storing Spent Fuel

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

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The sudden pouring of cold water on hot, exposed fuel rods can also cause the cladding to crack. Because of the extreme dangers caused by a partly or fully drained pool, there is little choice but to do this and accept the consequences.



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

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