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## Japan authorities: TEPCO plant fuel rods may have melted -Jiji

Sat, Mar 12 2011

March 12 (Reuters) - Japanese nuclear authorities said that there was a high possibility that nuclear fuel rods at a reactor at Tokyo Electric Power's Daiichi plant may be melting or have melted, Jiji news agency reported.

Experts have said that if the fuel rods have been damaged, it means that it could develop into a breach of the nuclear reactor vessel and the question then becomes one of how strong the containment structure around the vessel is and whether it has been undermined by the earthquake.

(Reporting by [Mayumi Negishi](#) and [Edwina Gibbs](#); Editing by Chris Gallagher)

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