

Wednesday, March 23, 2011

The Fukushima No. 1 nuclear plant emergency					
	Reactor No. 1 Pressure vessel Containment vessel Reactor building	Reactor No. 2 Suppression chamber Fuel rods	Reactor No. 3 Spent fuel pool	Reactor No. 4	Reactors No. 5 and 6
Core cooling system	Failed	Failed	Failed	No fuel rods in reactor core	No fuel in reactor cores, spent fuel rods in pool
Exposure of fuel rods (normally submerged); partial meltdown of reactor core	Exposure, partial meltdown detected March 12	Exposure detected twice March 14	Partial meltdown March 13	Exposure of spent fuel rods March 15	Temperatures of spent fuel pools had been rising, but began falling after electricity was restored to restart water circulation March 19
Explosion, fire	Hydrogen explosion March 12	White smoke seen March 21	Hydrogen explosion March 14 Black smoke seen March 21	Hydrogen explosion, fire March 15	
Containment vessel	Believed intact	Damage feared	Damage feared	Believed intact	
External power supply	Restored to the power center; Pumps being checked	Work to restore power continues	Work to restore power continues	Work to restore power continues	Restored to Reactor No. 5; Reactor No. 6 still battery-powered

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Updated details on nation's unprecedented natural, nuclear disasters

The Associated Press

Containment at three reactors intact — U.S. regulators say that while reactors 1, 2 and 3 have seen damage to their cores, their containment structures are holding. Still, smoke rose from two of the units Monday, and emergency workers trying to cool the reactors and restore power were forced to pull out. Officials at the Fukushima No. 1 plant have been battling to bring the reactors and spent fuel pools under control since the complex was damaged in the March 11 quake and tsunami.

Radiation found in food, water — Water and vegetables have been

contaminated by trace amounts of radiation, though the government says not at levels dangerous to human health. Still, sales of raw milk, spinach and canola from some areas have been banned, while the World Health Organization has called on the government to do more to reassure the public about food safety.

IAEA chief says crisis exposed weaknesses — The head of the IAEA, Yukiya Amano, says an update to nuclear safety standards should be considered. But he defended the agency's actions in the current crisis and gave no clear answer on whether he thinks the IAEA standards should be mandatory.

World Bank says reconstruction may take five years — The World Bank says Japan may need five years to rebuild from the earthquake and tsunami, which have caused up to \$235 billion in damage. The disaster will likely shave up to 0.5 percentage point from the country's economic growth this year, the bank said in a report, adding the impact will be concentrated in the first half of the year. The bank cites damage estimates between \$123 billion and \$235 billion.

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