

# Nuclear Power Plant Design and Seismic Safety Considerations



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*(Dorothy Daugherty)*

## NUCLEAR POWER PLANT DESIGN AND SEISMIC SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS



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CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 42 pages. Dimensions: 11.0in. x 8.5in. x 0.1in. The earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station and the earthquake that forced the North Anna, VA, nuclear power plants temporary shutdown have focused attention on the seismic criteria applied to siting and designing commercial nuclear power plants. Some Members of Congress have questioned whether U. S nuclear plants are more vulnerable to seismic threats than previously assessed, particularly given the Nuclear Regulatory Commissions (NRCs) ongoing reassessment of seismic risks at certain plant sites. The design and operation of commercial nuclear power plants operating in the United States vary considerably because most were custom-designed and custom-built. Boiling water reactors (BWRs) directly generate steam inside the reactor vessel. Pressurized water reactors (PWRs) use heat exchangers to convert the heat generated by the reactor core into steam outside of the reactor vessel. U. S. utilities currently operate 104 nuclear power reactors at 65 sites in 31 states; 69 are PWR designs and the 35 are BWR designs. One of the most severe operating conditions a reactor may face is a loss of coolant accident (LOCA), which can lead to a reactor core meltdown. The emergency core cooling system (ECCS) provides core cooling to minimize fuel damage by injecting large amounts of cool water containing boron (borated water slows the fission process) into the reactor coolant system following a pipe rupture or other water loss. The ECCS must be sized to provide adequate makeup water to compensate for a break of the largest diameter pipe in the primary system (i. e. , the so-called double-ended guillotine break (DEGB)). The NRC considers the DEGB to be an extremely unlikely event; however, even unlikely events can occur, as...



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