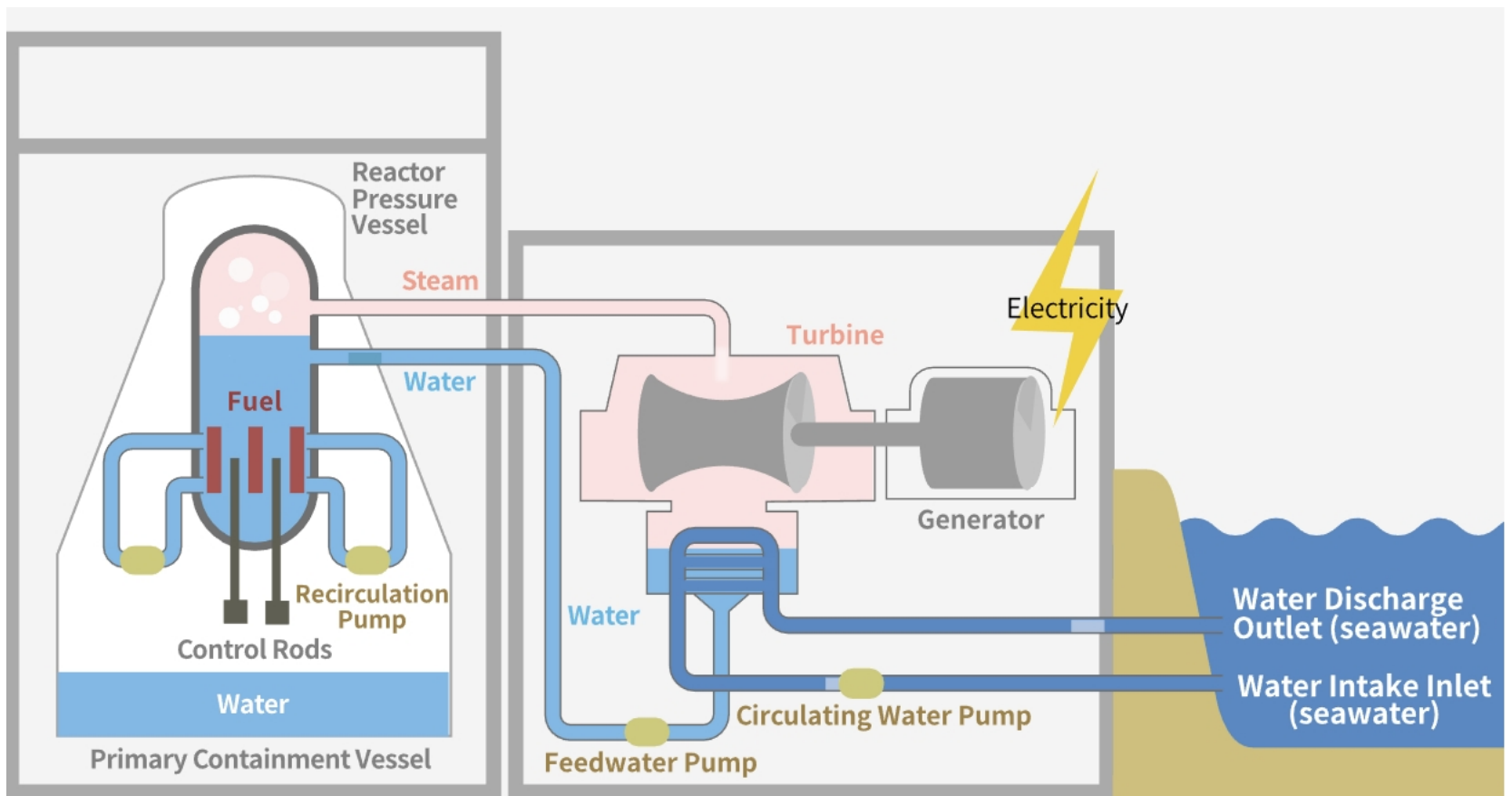


Boiling water reactors (BWR)



There are two types of reactor currently in use in Japan, Boiling Water Reactors (BWR) and Pressurized Water Reactors (PWR). They differ in the mechanisms used to generate steam.

In a BWR, cooling water inside the reactor is boiled, and the steam that is produced is sent directly to turbines to generate electricity. Based on the Boiling Water Reactor (BWR), the Advanced Boiling Water Reactor (ABWR) has been developed with improved safety and economic efficiency. The reactor incorporates a pump to circulate cooling water inside the reactor and employs a new drive mechanisms to move the control rods. In addition, the reactor containment vessel is made of reinforced concrete integrated with the reactor building, and its earthquake resistance is improved.

BWRs are used by Tohoku Electric Power Co., Hokuriku Electric Power Company, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings, Chubu Electric Power Co., Chugoku Electric Power Co., and the Japan Atomic Power Company.

ABWRs are used by Hokuriku Electric Power Company, Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings and Chubu Electric Power Co., and are also expected to be introduced by Chugoku Electric Power Co., and J-Power.