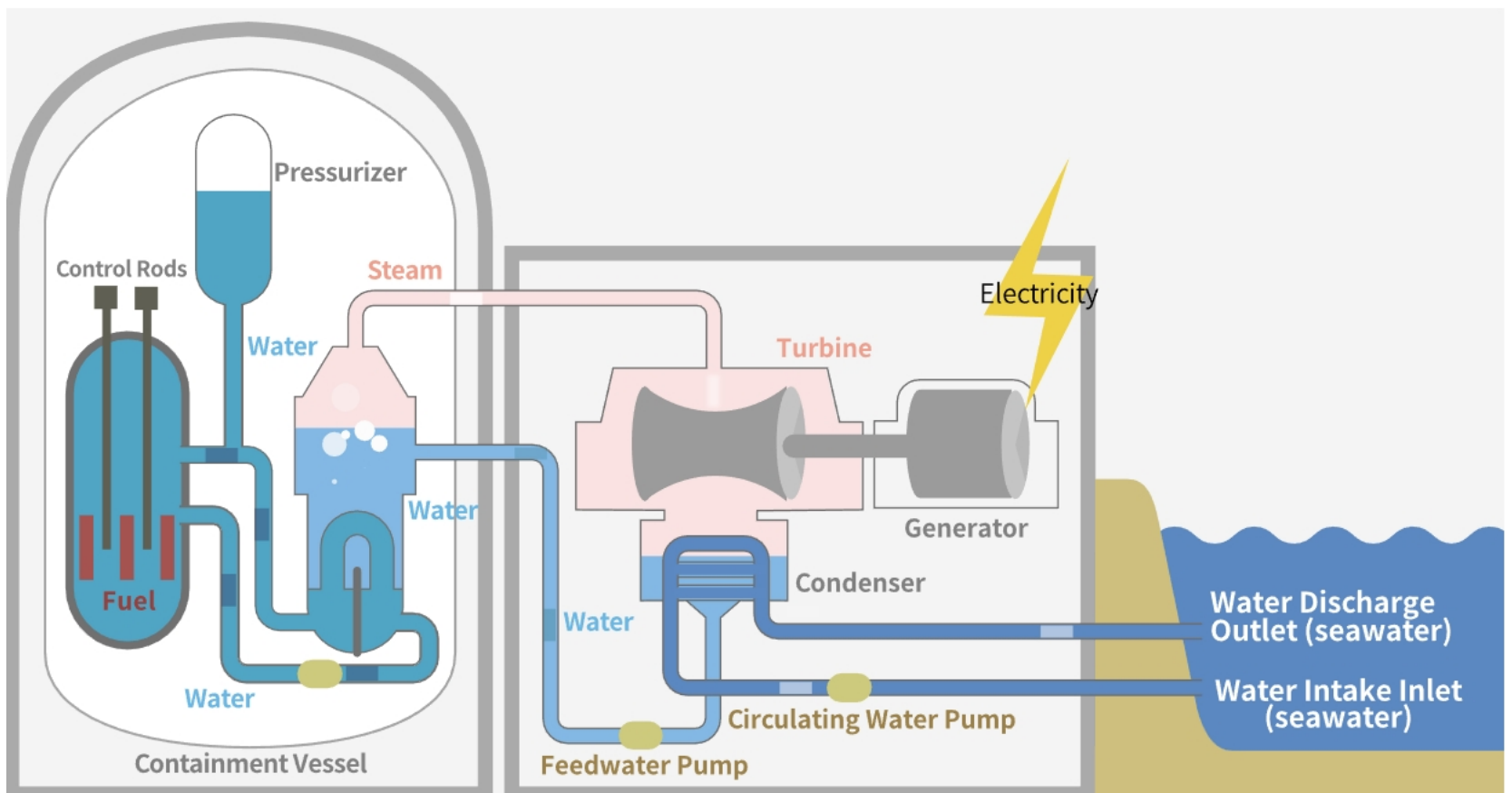


Pressurized water reactors (PWR)



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 PWR, water that has been heated inside the reactor (primary cooling water) is kept from boiling by maintaining a high pressure. The heat produced is transferred to a steam generator, where a separate volume of water (secondary cooling water) is boiled to produce steam, which in turn drives a turbine to generate electricity. The major characteristic of a PWR is that the primary cooling water that comes into direct contact with the fuel rods, and the secondary cooling water that drives the turbines as steam, are completely separated.

PWRs are used by Hokkaido Electric Power Co., Kansai Electric Power Co., Shikoku Electric Power Co, Kyushu Electric Power Co., and the Japan Atomic Power Company.