

Click on the animation to activate it.

This animation shows how a Pressurized Water Reactor (PWR) works to create energy used in everyday life. In a system like this, the water is heated by pressure, but it never boils.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission [tells us more](#):

Pressurized Water Reactors are known as "PWRs." They keep water under pressure so that it heats but does not boil.

Water from the reactor, and the water that is turned into steam, are in separate pipes and never mix.

Water used in a PWR is converted to steam and is then recycled, back into water, with the help of a condenser. It will then be used, again, in the heat process - just like it is in a [Boiling Water Reactor \(BWR\)](#).

Radiation is also a by-product of pressurized water reactors, so the same safety concerns apply to this process as apply to BWRs.

Credits:

[Animation graphic](#) by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Online, courtesy NRC.

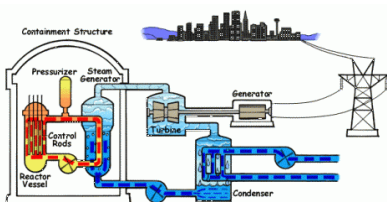
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Nuclear Power Animation - Pressurized Water

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