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An earthquake creates ground movement and with structures built on or in the ground, they can move as well. Engineers have developed a method to design structures to withstand this movement and not collapse, a method known as seismic design. Earthquakes can cause minor ground motion or extreme ground motion. To be conservative, engineers design structures for extreme motion and prove that they remain standing and do their job during the earthquake and after it is over. Recently, nuclear power plants nation-wide added many backup power sources, like backup generators, to safely shutdown the plant if power is lost due to an earthquake. So with structures doing their job and power sources available, the plant can safely shut down the nuclear reaction and greatly reduce any chance to endanger the public even during an extreme earthquake.