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NRC TO DISCUSS 2005 PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT FOR CALVERT CLIFFS NUCLEAR POWER PLANT

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Constellation Generation Group, LLC, on Thursday, April 20, to discuss the agency's annual assessment of safety performance at the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant. The period of performance to be discussed is Jan. 1 to Dec. 31, 2005.

Constellation operates the twin-reactor plant, which is located in Lusby (Calvert County), Md.

The meeting, which will be open to the public for observation, is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Express, 355 Merrimac Court in Prince Frederick, Md. The NRC staff will present the results of the assessment and be available to respond to questions or comments from the public before the close of the meeting.

"As we do every year, we have carefully reviewed the safety performance of the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant during the previous calendar year," NRC Region I Administrator Samuel J. Collins said. "The meeting on April 20th will afford the public a chance to learn more about the results of our assessment and to pose any questions they might have regarding plant performance or our oversight activities."

A letter sent from the NRC Region I Office to plant officials addresses the performance of the plant during the period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/calv_2005q4.pdf. The meeting notice, with the meeting agenda attached, is available in the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) under accession number ML060740658. The NRC slides are available in ADAMS under accession number ML060940405. ADAMS is accessible via the agency's web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html>. Help in using ADAMS is available by contacting the NRC's Public Document Room at 1-800-397-4209 or 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at PDR@NRC.GOV.

Overall, the Calvert Cliffs plant operated safely during the period. The NRC uses color-coded inspection findings and performance indicators to assess nuclear power plant performance. The colors

start with “green” and then increase to “white,” “yellow” or “red,” commensurate with the safety significance of the issues involved. Because all of the inspection findings and performance indicators for the plant as of the end of 2005 were determined to be “green,” Calvert Cliffs will receive a baseline (or routine) level of inspections during the upcoming assessment period.

Calvert Cliffs had a “white” inspection finding open during the first quarter of last year. That finding involved a relay failure that caused the steam dump valves to remain full open following a Unit 2 reactor trip in January 2004. A supplemental inspection, conducted in January 2005, determined that the root causes for the performance deficiencies were understood and that completed and planned corrective actions were reasonable to address the related causes. Based on that information, the finding was closed.

Routine inspections are performed by two NRC Resident Inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from the Region I Office in King of Prussia, Pa. Among the areas of plant operations to be inspected during the next year by NRC specialists are the replacement of reactor vessel heads at both units and the dry cask storage for spent fuel at the facility.

Current performance information for Calvert Cliffs 1 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CALV1/calv1_chart.html .

Current performance information for Calvert Cliffs 2 is available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/CALV2/calv2_chart.html .

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