



NRC NEWS

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November 8, 2023

NRC Releases Zion Nuclear Power Plant Site for Unrestricted Public Use

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has released for “unrestricted use” most of the land on and around where the Zion Nuclear Power Station once operated. This means that any residual radiation is below NRC’s limits and there will be no further regulatory controls by the NRC for that portion of the property. Only the plant’s spent fuel storage facility, covering about 5 acres, will remain under NRC license and oversight.

NRC staff determined *ZionSolutions* had satisfactorily finished decommissioning of the plant and decontamination of the site to meet the agency’s radiation protection standards. This clears the way for *ZionSolutions* to transfer the spent fuel storage facility license to Constellation Energy Generation, which will be responsible for the security and protection of Zion’s spent fuel facility until an offsite storage facility or permanent disposal site becomes available. Constellation is free to use the remainder of the former plant site for any application.

The Zion plant, located in Zion, Illinois, consisted of two pressurized-water reactors that operated from 1973 until 1997. Then-operator Commonwealth Edison certified the permanent shutdown of the plant in 1998. In 2010, the licenses were transferred to *ZionSolutions*, a subsidiary of radioactive waste disposal company *EnergySolutions*, to expedite the decommissioning process.

The NRC approved the current transfer to Constellation in 2019, conditional on *ZionSolutions*’ successful completion of the decommissioning work. Once the two companies close on their transaction, the NRC will issue amendments changing the name on the license to Constellation Energy Generation.