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Contact: [Viktoria Mitlyng](#), 630-829-9662
[Prema Chandrathil](#), 630-829-9663

NRC Begins Special Inspection at Quad Cities Nuclear Power Plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has launched a special inspection at the Quad Cities Generating Station to review two events caused by battery issues. The two-unit plant, in Cordova, Illinois, is operated by Constellation Energy.

The first event involved a [Unit 1 scram](#) caused by a degraded condition on a Unit 2 battery. The second event involved a [Notice of Unusual Event](#), the lowest of the NRC's emergency level classifications, due to a brief fire on the same Unit 2 battery.

The events did not impact public health or plant workers.

The NRC determined a special inspection was warranted because of multiple unexpected system interactions and failures during the scram, the unknown cause of the fire and a possible connection between the two events. Batteries supply power to plant systems during routine plant operation and are an important back-up power source in case of an emergency.

"While the plant remained safe during these occurrences, an independent review by the regulator is warranted, given questions related to battery problems at the root of both events," said Region III Administrator Jack Giessner. "Our inspectors will independently assess the issues, evaluate Constellation's understanding of events and causes, and assess operator actions, the scope of the plant's assessment and the development of corrective actions."

Once the inspection is completed, NRC inspectors will document their findings in a report, which will be distributed electronically to listserv subscribers and available on the NRC [website](#).

The NRC recently completed a [special inspection](#) at the plant to review the inoperability of safety-related vacuum breakers. That inspection, unrelated to the battery issues, will also be documented in a publicly available inspection report.