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475 Allendale Road, King of Prussia, Pa. 19406

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CONTACT: Diane Screnci, 610/337-5330
Neil Sheehan, 610/337-5331

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Email: opa1@nrc.gov

NRC SENDS SPECIAL INSPECTION TEAM TO CALVERT CLIFFS UNIT 2

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has sent a special inspection team to the Calvert Cliffs nuclear power plant in Lusby, Md., to follow up on an automatic reactor shutdown in late January. The two-unit site is operated by Constellation Energy.

On January 23, the Calvert Cliffs Unit 2 reactor was operating at full power when one of two steam generator feedwater pumps shut down. This pump supplies water to the plant's steam generators, which help cool the reactor and generate steam to drive the electricity-producing main turbine. The reactor automatically shut down, as designed.

Following the shutdown, equipment issues complicated the work of the operators in restoring reactor coolant system temperature and pressure to normal post-shutdown values. There were no public health and safety consequences. The NRC resident inspectors assigned to the site monitored control room activities following the shutdown.

The four-member inspection team arrived on site today. The purpose of the inspection will be to independently evaluate equipment and human performance, and to assess Constellation's root cause evaluation of the event and corrective actions. The team should be at the facility for about a week.

An inspection report will be issued within 30 days of an exit meeting for the inspection.

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