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NRC to Hold Regulatory Conference with Constellation Regarding Apparent Violation at Nine Mile Point 1 Nuclear Plant

Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will conduct a Regulatory Conference with Constellation Energy Nuclear Group, LLC, on Nov. 1 to discuss an apparent violation at the Nine Mile Point 1 nuclear power plant preliminarily determined to be “greater than green.”

The meeting is scheduled to begin at noon at the NRC’s Region I Office, at 2100 Renaissance Blvd. in King of Prussia, Pa. It will be open to the public, with an opportunity for any member of the public attending to ask questions of NRC staff before it is concluded.

The violation to be discussed stems from an event on April 16 at Nine Mile Point 1, which is located in Scriba, N.Y. and operated by Constellation. Following the shutdown of the reactor for a planned refueling and maintenance outage, flow from the plant’s shutdown cooling system – used at such times to circulate water through the nuclear fuel and keep it properly cooled – was inadvertently and temporarily lost due to a combination of maintenance activities, an unplanned loss of a DC electrical power bus (system) and the subsequent improper restoration of the DC bus.

A Regulatory Conference is held, if requested by a plant owner, to discuss an inspection finding and its safety significance. It will also give Constellation an opportunity to clarify any issues raised in the NRC inspection report. No decision will be made at the conference on the apparent violation or any enforcement action. Those decisions will be made by NRC officials at a later time.

The NRC’s Reactor Oversight Process uses a color-coded system to characterize violations, with green representing very low safety significance and then increasing to white, yellow or red commensurate with the safety significance. If a violation is determined to be greater than green, the agency increases its level of oversight accordingly.