

UniStar Nuclear Energy Seeks Maryland Public Service Commission Approval for New Nuclear Facility at Calvert Cliffs

Additional generating capacity would help Mid-Atlantic region, including Maryland, meet future energy demand through clean, economic power

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BALTIMORE, Nov. 15 /PRNewswire-FirstCall/ -- UniStar Nuclear Energy (UNE), a joint venture between Constellation Energy and The EDF Group (EDF), has submitted an application to the Maryland Public Service Commission (PSC) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for the potential construction of a new nuclear unit at Constellation Energy's Calvert Cliffs Nuclear Power Plant in Southern Maryland.

While UNE has not made a final decision to build this new advanced-design reactor at Calvert Cliffs, it has submitted the CPCN to the PSC as a step toward potential construction of a non-greenhouse gas emitting, base-load, 1,600-megawatt generating facility to meet increasing energy demand in the Mid-Atlantic region, and in particular, the state of Maryland.

"A third reactor at our high-performing Calvert Cliffs site offers the potential for an economic and environmentally sound means to provide additional base-load electricity to meet anticipated growth, both regionally and within the state of Maryland," said Michael J. Wallace, executive vice president, Constellation Energy and chairman, UNE. "Given the extreme volatility of energy prices worldwide and the significant environmental costs associated with new and anticipated regulation governing coal-fired generation, we believe nuclear energy affords our nation the most economic and environmentally friendly alternative to meet what will no doubt continue to be increasing demand for energy."

Wallace noted the ultimate decision to build a third reactor at Calvert Cliffs will not be made until the overall economics and risks associated with the project are better defined. Factors include the availability and cost of federal loan guarantees, and state and local fiscal policies that affect the tax treatment of the proposed plant.

In addition to potential third reactor at Calvert Cliffs, Constellation Energy's Nine Mile Point nuclear facility in upstate New York also is under consideration by UNE as an attractive location for the first of four advanced design reactors using AREVA Inc.'s U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor (EPR) technology. UNE announced plans in July 2007 to develop, own and operate a fleet of U.S. EPR's, which use an advanced design technology featuring additional redundant safety systems and higher efficiency.

The CPCN submittal is yet another step in the regulatory process, which also provides opportunities for public comment. The CPCN application notes the proposed Calvert Cliffs reactor is supported by the Calvert County (Maryland) Board of County Commissioners, which cited "trust in the regulatory process and oversight and Constellation Energy's commitment to safety and environmental stewardship."

