

Environment & Energy

Constellation Nuke Plants in Illinois to Seek 20-Year Extensions

By Zach Bright

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- Request for two plans would be made in 2024
 - Plants would power central, northern Illinois
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Two of Constellation Energy Corp.'s nuclear plants in Illinois will ask the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to extend their operating licenses by two decades, the company said Monday.

If the requests are approved, Constellation's Clinton plant in central Illinois could operate until 2047 and Dresden facility in northern Illinois could keep running two units until 2049 and 2051, 20 years past their current license timelines.

Clinton, Dresden, and three other nuclear plants in Illinois received credits under two state laws passed to prevent early retirement as well as nuclear production tax credits from the federal tax and climate measure (Public Law 117-169) passed in August. Illinois Democratic Sens. Richard Durbin and Tammy Duckworth earlier highlighted the tax credit's ability to assist Constellation in the state.

Constellation expects to file both license applications with the NRC in 2024.

The sites' continued generation of carbon-free energy is crucial to attaining Illinois' goal of getting 100% energy from clean energy sources by 2050, according to Constellation's release.

"To get to zero emissions in Illinois and nationally, we will need to operate every carbon-free resource we have for as long as we possibly can," said Joe Dominguez, president and CEO of Constellation. "With these extensions, Clinton and Dresden will further demonstrate the capability of nuclear assets to provide always-on clean energy when and where it is needed for decades to come."

Energy from the two plants currently provides enough energy to power about 2.1 million homes.

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