



### **Nuclear power plants are emission-free.**

Nuclear power plants don't burn anything, so they don't produce any combustion products. Emission-free nuclear plants help protect our air quality. Coupled with renewable energy options, nuclear energy is critical to meeting our environmental and energy goals.

It takes all kinds of fuel to provide dependable electricity while limiting environmental impact. These include fossil fuels, hydropower, nuclear energy, solar and wind energy, and geothermal energy.

### **About one-third of U.S. electricity comes from emission-free sources.**

Most of our electricity is generated by burning fossil fuels, a process that produces sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and carbon dioxide. Emission-free sources provide only 30 percent of America's electricity, and three-fourths of that comes from nuclear power plants.

### **The water is clean too.**

Cooling water discharged from a nuclear plant contains no harmful pollutants, and it meets federal Clean Water Act requirements and state standards for temperature and mineral content.

### **The United States needs abundant electricity and clean air.**

Fossil-fueled generating plants are getting cleaner, and renewable energy sources such as wind will play an increasing role—albeit a small one—in meeting America's electricity needs. Nuclear energy is the only large-scale, emission-free energy source that can be widely expanded.

### **Environmental Regulations & Monitoring**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is responsible for assuring that nuclear power plants operate safely and meet federal regulations. NRC inspectors work full time at Constellation Energy nuclear plants, reviewing day-to-day activities and programs. Additional inspectors conduct several special inspections of specific areas and programs each year.

Additionally, nuclear power plant operators must follow federal and state environmental regulations and reporting requirements.

### **Calvert Cliffs**

In addition to caring for the community, the Constellation Energy team at Calvert Cliffs takes pride in caring for the environment, holding a 30-year record of environmental responsibility. Constellation Energy manages more than 2,000 acres of pristine forest and shoreline at Calvert Cliffs, with only 380 acres used for facilities.

# ENVIRONMENT

Constellation Energy's environmental staff partners with government agencies and environmental organizations, ensuring that Calvert Cliffs operates within the letter and the spirit of the law. The Maryland Department of the Environment regularly inspects Calvert Cliffs to ensure compliance with state and federal environmental regulations for air and water quality.

At Calvert Cliffs, Constellation Energy works continually with The Nature Conservancy to study and protect 90 percent of the world's total population of threatened Puritan and Northeastern Beach tiger beetles. The staff also works with the Academy of Natural Sciences Estuarine Research Center to monitor the Chesapeake Bay oyster population near Calvert Cliffs. The academy's oyster study along Calvert Cliffs' shoreline stands as one of the bay's longest studies and shows no impact from the plant, proving that business and nature can and do work and live in harmony.

The wildlife habitat enhancement team encourages employee involvement in environmental activities. Employee projects have included installing and monitoring blue bird and kestrel nesting boxes; planting a wildflower garden for butterflies, hummingbirds and songbirds; monitoring more than 700 deer, dozens of other animal and plant species; and helping the Academy of Natural Sciences plant disease-resistant oysters to help the Chesapeake Bay oyster population.

Constellation Energy's environmental program at Calvert Cliffs attracts national attention. The Wildlife Habitat Council began recognizing Calvert Cliffs as a certified site in 1993 and in 2002, honored the plant with a fifth biannual certification. In 2001, Calvert Cliffs also received state-wide recognition with the Maryland Community Forest Council's PLANT award for tree planting and maintenance initiatives. During 2004, Calvert Cliffs was certified as a Maryland Tree Farm for the site's excellent forestry management practices.

