Two reactors remained safe during an 5.8 earthquake originating 11 miles away in Mineral, Va. Ground motion at the plant site exceeded the seismic design for the plant; however there was virtually no damage at the facility.

Several reactors on the coast of Japan were affected by a 9.0 earthquake. The Onagawa nuclear plant, closest to the source of the earthquake, shut down as designed. All systems at the plant performed as designed to maintain safety at the three reactors. The Fukushima Daiichi and Daini plants also were structurally sound after the earthquake, but were damaged by a tsunami.

The plant experienced ground motion beyond its seismic design from a 6.9 earthquake, just offshore of Japan. All reactors shut down safely.

Nuclear plants designed to withstand the strongest ground motion recorded for the site. Safety features go above and beyond to account for uncertainties in seismic data. NRC regularly reevaluates seismic data.

2010 — NRC’s seismic review found nuclear plants to be safe
2011 — NRC folded plans for new site-specific assessments into post-Fukushima requirements
2012 — New seismic source model published; peer-reviewed by U.S. Geological Survey
2013-14 — Experts are reevaluating seismic protection at each reactor site