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CONTACT: Jan Strasma 630/829-9663
 Angela Greenman 630/829-9662
 E-mail: opa3@nrc.gov

NRC STAFF RATES BRAIDWOOD "SUPERIOR" IN OPERATIONS AND PLANT
SUPPORT AND "GOOD" IN MAINTENANCE AND ENGINEERING

The Braidwood Nuclear Power Station, operated by Commonwealth Edison Company, has received performance ratings of "superior" in operations and plant support and "good" in maintenance and engineering, the four areas of review in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff's latest Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) report for the facility. The plant is at Braidwood, Illinois.

The assessment covers the period from October 1, 1995, through August of this year.

The NRC staff and Commonwealth Edison officials will discuss the evaluation at a meeting that will be scheduled at a future date. The meeting will be open for public observation.

NRC SALP reports rate utilities in four functional areas -- plant operations, maintenance, engineering, and plant support -- and assign ratings of Category 1,2, or 3 depending on whether their performance in those areas is superior, good or acceptable. The report on Braidwood gives the plant a "Category 1" rating -- indicating superior performance -- in operations and plant support and a "Category 2" rating -- indicating good performance -- in maintenance and engineering.

NRC Regional Administrator A. Bill Beach, in a letter to the utility, noted that "the conduct of nuclear activities at the Braidwood Station improved from that observed during the previous assessment period and was very good."

He added: "Effective communications, strong and conservative management involvement, and excellent teamwork were observed across the functional areas. Of particular note was the effort at improving the material condition of the plant. The combined efforts of operations, maintenance, engineering, and radiation protection staffs resulted in improved plant performance."

"Management attention to plant material condition, problem identification and resolution, work control, conduct of maintenance and surveillance test activities, and self-assessment resulted in overall improvement in the maintenance area," Mr. Beach continued. "However, detracting from this improved performance were procedural adherence deficiencies throughout the assessment period."

He told the utility, "Initiatives in radiological work planning and training reduced personnel exposures, and strong teamwork and effective communications between the radiation protection staff and other organizations were evident."

<u>Functional Area</u>	<u>Current Period</u>	<u>Previous Period</u>
Operations	1	2
Maintenance	2	2
Engineering	2	2
Plant Support	1	1

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The full SALP report is available on the NRC's internet web site at: <<http://www.nrc.gov/OPA>>. SALP reports for all nuclear plants are also available as they are issued through an electronic mailing list. To receive these reports send an e-mail message to listproc@nrc.gov with no subject and with the following message: subscribe salp yourfirstname yourlastname.