

August 22, 2002

Mr. John L. Skolds, President  
Exelon Nuclear  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN BRAIDWOOD  
STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Mr. Skolds:

On July 31, 2002, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle plant performance assessment of the Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2. In accordance with NRC Inspection Manual Chapter 0305 "Operating Reactor Assessment Program," the mid-cycle review involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating the performance of your Braidwood station facility for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 to December 31, 2002. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

The NRC Action Matrix defines the expected level of response by the NRC and licensee based on inputs from the assessment process. Actions are graded such that the NRC becomes more engaged as licensee performance declines. Plant performance for the most recent quarter was within the Degraded Cornerstone Column which corresponds to the third column of this matrix and indicates declining performance in the Mitigation Systems Cornerstone for Unit 1. This assessment was based on one White Performance Indicator (Safety System Unavailability, Heat Removal System (Auxiliary Feedwater)) for Unit 1 and one low to moderate safety (White) finding concerning the Unit 1 pressurizer power operated relief valve air accumulator check valves. This finding was identified by the NRC in February 2002; however, the final risk significance was not determined until July 2002. The finding was determined to be a violation of NRC requirements for failing to prevent recurring failures of the air accumulator check valves.

In accordance with the Action Matrix, the NRC will conduct Supplemental Inspection 95002 "Inspection For One Degraded Cornerstone or Any Three White Inputs In A Strategic Performance Area". The purpose of this inspection is to (1) provide assurance that the root and contributing causes for the individual and collective risk significant performance issues are understood; (2) independently assess the extent of condition; and (3) provide assurance that the corrective actions are sufficient to prevent recurrence. We will work with your staff to confirm the specific inspection dates.

Also, in March 2002, the NRC completed Supplemental Inspection 95001, "Inspection For One or Two White Inputs in a Strategic Performance Area" which focused on your actions with respect to the auxiliary feedwater system performance. The results of that inspection were communicated to you in NRC Inspection Report 50-456/02-04.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2003. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival onsite. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. The inspection plan for the last 6 months is tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review.

In addition, the NRC is in the process of finalizing a Temporary Instruction that will be used to review implementation of the Interim Compensatory Measures required by the Agency's Security Order to all commercial nuclear power plants dated February 25, 2002. Schedules have not yet been finalized, but it is anticipated that these inspections will begin within the next calendar quarter. Once finalized, the details will be communicated by separate correspondence.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Ann Marie Stone, Chief, Reactor Projects Branch 3, at (630) 829-9729, with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

***/RA by James Caldwell acting for/***

J. E. Dyer  
Regional Administrator

Docket Nos. 50-456; 50-457  
License Nos. NPF-72; NPF-77

Enclosure: Braidwood Station Inspection/Activity Plan

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\Branch TSS\midcycle2002\inspectionplnltrs-02\bra-inspectionplnltr.wpd

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**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**

cc w/encl: Site Vice President - Braidwood  
Braidwood Station Plant Manager  
Regulatory Assurance Manager - Braidwood  
Chief Operating Officer  
Senior Vice President - Nuclear Services  
Senior Vice President - Mid-West Regional  
Operating Group  
Vice President - Mid-West Operations Support  
Vice President - Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Director Licensing - Mid-West Regional  
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B. Ward, Will County Sheriff  
D. Gould, Will County Emergency Management  
Coordinator/Director  
The Honorable Arthur Schultz  
J. Mezera, Joliet City Manager  
J. Church, Kendall County Board Chairman  
R. Randall, Kendall County Sheriff  
D. Kaufman, Grundy County Board Chairman  
J. L. Olson, Grundy County Sheriff  
Grundy County Emergency Management  
Coordinator/Director  
The Honorable Richard Kopczick  
The Honorable Richard Ellis  
The Honorable Gerald V. Pierard  
The Honorable Joseph Fracaro  
The Honorable Elmer Rolando  
The Honorable Richard Girot  
The Honorable Tony McGann  
The Honorable Wayne Chesson  
M. T. Gibson, Channahon Village Administrator  
The Honorable Richard Chapman  
K. Carroll, Shorewood Village Administrator  
The Honorable Robert Blum  
The Honorable Marchel Michael

The Honorable Donald Green  
INPO

J. Skolds

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**Braidwood**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**09/01/2002 - 09/30/2003**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>95002</b>	<b>- INSP FOR ONE DEGRADED CORNERSTONE OR ANY</b>	<b>5</b>			
1	IP 95002	Inspection For One Degraded Cornerstone Or Any Three White Inputs In A Strategic Performar		08/26/2002	12/28/2002	Supplemental Program
	<b>IP 71114</b>	<b>- EP BASELINE INSPECTION (EXERCISE)</b>	<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111401	Exercise Evaluation		10/07/2002	10/11/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		10/07/2002	10/11/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>IP 71121</b>	<b>- RP ALARA &amp; ACCESS CONTROLS INSPECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		10/21/2002	10/25/2002	Baseline Inspections
	<b>IP 71122</b>	<b>- LIQ/GASEOUS RAD SAFETY INSPECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		01/06/2003	01/10/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		01/06/2003	01/10/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>MOD50.59</b>	<b>- BIENNIAL PLANT MODS AND 50.59</b>	<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		01/13/2003	01/17/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 711117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		01/13/2003	01/17/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>INSP</b>	<b>- UNIT 1 OUTAGE</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/07/2003	04/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
1	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		04/07/2003	04/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/07/2003	04/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>ISI</b>	<b>- ISI FOR UNIT 1</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 7111108	Inservice Inspection Activities		04/07/2003	04/18/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>ISI</b>	<b>- TI-145 FOR UNIT 1</b>	<b>1</b>			
1	IP 2515/145	Circumferential Cracking of Reactor Pressure Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles (NRC Bulletin .		04/07/2003	04/18/2003	Safety Issues
	<b>INSP</b>	<b>- EP NON-EXERCISE INSPECTION</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111402	Alert and Notification System Testing		04/21/2003	04/25/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111403	Emergency Response Organization Augmentation Testing		04/21/2003	04/25/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111405	Correction of Emergency Preparedness Weaknesses and Deficiencies		04/21/2003	04/25/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		04/21/2003	04/25/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>HT SNK B</b>	<b>- HEAT SINK BIENNIAL (DRS)</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111107B	Heat Sink Performance		05/12/2003	05/16/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>FPI</b>	<b>- TRIENNIAL FIRE PROTECTION</b>	<b>3</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111105T	Fire Protection		06/23/2003	07/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>INSP</b>	<b>- REMP</b>	<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		07/07/2003	07/11/2003	Baseline Inspections

This report does not include INPO and OUTAGE activities.  
This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.

**Braidwood**  
**Inspection / Activity Plan**  
**09/01/2002 - 09/30/2003**

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates		Inspection Type
				Start	End	
	<b>INSP - REMP</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7112203	Radiological Environmental Monitoring Program		07/07/2003	07/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		07/07/2003	07/11/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>MR - MAINTENANCE RULE</b>		<b>1</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111112B	Maintenance Effectiveness		08/04/2003	08/08/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>SSDI - SAFETY SYSTEM DESIGN</b>		<b>5</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		08/25/2003	09/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
	<b>71111.11 - LIC OPERATOR REQUAL PROGRAM EVALUATION</b>		<b>2</b>			
1, 2	IP 7111111B	Licensed Operator Requalification		09/29/2003	10/03/2003	Baseline Inspections

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This report shows only on-site and announced inspection procedures.