



NRC NEWS

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

801 Warrenville Road

Lisle IL 60532

Web Site: <http://www.nrc.gov> E-mail: opa3@nrc.gov

No. III-04-021

April 12, 2004

CONTACT: Jan Strasma (630) 829-9663
Viktoria Mitlyng (630) 829-9662

NRC TO MEET WITH EXELON GENERATION COMPANY TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE OF BRAIDWOOD NUCLEAR PLANT

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet with representatives of Exelon Generation Company on Thursday, April 15, to discuss the results of the agency's assessment of safety performance at the Braidwood Nuclear Power Station during 2003. The facility is located in Braceville, Illinois.

The meeting will be held at 3 p.m. at the Fossil Ridge Library, 386 Kennedy Road, in Braidwood. The public is invited to observe the meeting and NRC officials will be available before the conclusion of the meeting to answer questions from the public on the safety performance of the plant. In addition, the NRC staff will provide an overview of how the agency's Reactor Oversight Process works.

The NRC concluded that the plant operated safely. However, Unit 1 showed a degradation in safety performance due to an increase in unplanned maintenance time for an auxiliary feedwater pump caused by equipment problems in the third and fourth quarters of last year. As a result, in addition to routine inspections, the NRC will conduct a supplemental inspection at Unit 1 to better understand the declining performance of the auxiliary feedwater system.

Braidwood Unit 2 does not require additional inspections beyond the normal inspection program. Routine inspections are performed by the two resident inspectors assigned to the plant and by inspection specialists from Region III office in Lisle, Illinois.

A March 4 letter from the NRC to Exelon Generation Company officials addresses the performance of the plant during this period and will serve as the basis for the meeting discussion. It is available at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/LETTERS/brai_2003q4.pdf

With regard to security issues, the NRC has issued several orders and threat advisories to enhance security capabilities and improve guard force readiness since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. The agency has also conducted inspections to review the implementation of these requirements and has monitored the action of plant operators in response to changing threat conditions. The NRC will continue security inspections during 2004.

Current performance indicators and inspection findings for Braidwood are available on the NRC web site at: http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BRAI1/brai1_chart.html and http://www.nrc.gov/NRR/OVERSIGHT/ASSESS/BRAI2/brai2_chart.html

###