

June 3, 2005

Mr. Christopher M. Crane
President and Chief Nuclear Officer
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: BYRON STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 AND BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 - REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (RAI) RELATED TO GENERIC LETTER 2004-02, "POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEBRIS BLOCKAGE ON EMERGENCY SUMP RECIRCULATION AT PRESSURIZED-WATER REACTORS" (TAC NOS. MC4669, MC4670, MC4667, AND MC4668)

Dear Mr. Crane:

By letter dated March 7, 2005, Exelon Generation Company, LLC (the licensee) provided the 90-day response to U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Generic Letter (GL) 2004-02 for Byron Station, Units 1 and 2, and Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2. The GL requested the licensee perform an evaluation of the emergency core cooling system and containment spray system recirculation functions in light of the information provided in the GL and, if appropriate, take additional actions to ensure system function. Additionally, addressees were requested to submit to the NRC the information specified in the GL.

The NRC staff has completed its preliminary review of your response and has determined it needs additional information requested in the enclosure to complete our review.

This RAI requests additional information about your overall plans and schedules and not any information on detailed plans or extensive analyses. In light of this, please provide the additional information requested in the enclosure within 45 days of receipt of this letter.

If you have any questions, please call me at (301) 415-3027.

Sincerely,
/RA/

Jon B. Hopkins, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. STN 50-454, STN 50-455, STN 50-456, and STN 50-457

Enclosure: Request for Additional Information

cc w/encl: See next page

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*RAI input from SPLB without any major change

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Byron/Braidwood Stations

cc:

Dwain W. Alexander, Project Manager
Westinghouse Electric Corporation
Energy Systems Business Unit
Post Office Box 355
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0355

Joseph Gallo
Gallo & Ross
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1014
Washington, DC 20036

Howard A. Learner
Environmental Law and Policy
Center of the Midwest
35 East Wacker Dr., Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60601-2110

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Byron Resident Inspectors Office
4448 N. German Church Road
Byron, IL 61010-9750

Regional Administrator, Region III
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
801 Warrenville Road
Lisle, IL 60532-4351

Ms. Lorraine Creek
RR 1, Box 182
Manteno, IL 60950

Chairman, Ogle County Board
Post Office Box 357
Oregon, IL 61061

Mrs. Phillip B. Johnson
1907 Stratford Lane
Rockford, IL 61107

George L. Edgar
Morgan, Lewis and Bockius
1800 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036-5869

500 S. Second Street
Springfield, IL 62701

Illinois Emergency Management
Agency
Division of Disaster Assistance &
Preparedness
110 East Adams Street
Springfield, IL 62701-1109

Byron Station Plant Manager
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4450 N. German Church Road
Byron, IL 61010-9794

Site Vice President - Byron
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4450 N. German Church Road
Byron, IL 61010-9794

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Braidwood Resident Inspectors Office
35100 S. Rt. 53, Suite 79
Braceville, IL 60407

County Executive
Will County Office Building
302 N. Chicago Street
Joliet, IL 60432

Braidwood Station Plant Manager
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
35100 S. Rt. 53, Suite 84
Braceville, IL 60407-9619

Ms. Bridget Little Rorem
Appleseed Coordinator
117 N. Linden Street
Essex, IL 60935

Attorney General

Document Control Desk - Licensing
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

Site Vice President - Braidwood
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
35100 S. Rt. 53, Suite 84
Braceville, IL 60407-9619

Senior Vice President - Nuclear Services
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

Vice President of Operations - Mid-West
Pressurized Water Reactors
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

Director - Licensing and Regulatory
Affairs
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

Regulatory Assurance Manager - Braidwood
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
35100 S. Rt. 53, Suite 84
Braceville, IL 60407-9619

Regulatory Assurance Manager - Byron
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4450 N. German Church Road
Byron, IL 61010-9794

Associate General Counsel
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

Vice President - Licensing and
Regulatory Affairs
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

Manager Licensing - Braidwood, Byron
and LaSalle
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

Mr. Barry Quigley
3512 Louisiana
Rockford, IL 61108

REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
REGARDING GENERIC LETTER 2004-02,
“POTENTIAL IMPACT OF DEBRIS BLOCKAGE ON
EMERGENCY SUMP RECIRCULATION AT PRESSURIZED-WATER REACTORS”
EXELON GENERATION COMPANY, LLC
BYRON STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 AND BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2
DOCKET NOS. STN 50-454, STN 50-455, STN 50-456, AND STN 50-457

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In your 90-day response to GL 2004-02, you indicated that evaluations for coating failures, chemical precipitation effects of debris accumulation, and the downstream effects of debris-laden fluid may be completed after the September 1, 2005, response due date, depending on the schedule for testing and the availability of industry guidance. This is contrary to the information request in GL 2004-02, which requests that these subjects be addressed in the September 1, 2005, response. This delay is also contrary to the staff's position that there are sufficient bases to address sump vulnerability to chemical effects and that the September response will be incomplete if the evaluation is incomplete, the design is not complete, or there is no schedule for upgrades. In particular, the cooperative NRC-Electric Power Research Institute tests in progress at the University of New Mexico are designed to determine if chemical effects occur, but are not designed to measure head loss associated with any chemical effects. The staff notes that some chemical effects have been observed in the initial three tests. In this light, please discuss your plans and schedule for evaluating these subjects. In addition, please discuss any plans for performing testing to support your evaluation of these subjects.

ENCLOSURE