

February 17, 2006

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

SUBJECT: CESSATION OF RADIOACTIVE DISCHARGES TO THE KANKAKEE RIVER
THROUGH BLOWDOWN LINE

Dear Mr. Crane

By letter dated February 7, 2006, Exelon Generation Company, LLC documented the suspension of the discharge of radioactive effluents through the circulating water blowdown pipeline at the Braidwood Station and your commitment to communicate with the NRC prior to the future discharge of any radioactivity releases through the blowdown line.

We have completed our review of the information provided in your February 7, 2006, letter. We understand that you suspended the release of all liquid radiological effluents through the circulating water blowdown pipeline as of November 23, 2005, and do not plan any additional radioactive releases through the line until its integrity can be assured. Since that time, you have been storing volumes of radioactive liquids onsite in temporary storage tanks until such time as the liquids can be processed or released. Only non-radioactive lake water continues to be sent through the pipeline to control chemistry in the lake. In addition, your staff continues to evaluate the integrity of the blowdown pipeline and the installed vacuum breakers along that line that have appeared to contribute to the leakage of radioactive liquids to both onsite and offsite areas. Prior to any future radioactive liquid discharges, we look forward to discussing your plans and, in particular, your provisions for leak detection for that pipeline or any other pipeline carrying radioactive liquids offsite.

During a discussion on February 10, 2006, between Mr. T. O'Neill and other members of your staff and Ms. A. Boland of the NRC, we understand that you also intend to communicate with us prior to processing radioactive liquids through any new processing equipment or disposition through any environmental or offsite pathway. We recognize that you may be recycling some liquid for use in routine plant operations, which would be processed through existing plant equipment. As we discussed, we intend to review and discuss with you any changes in your current process (e.g., onsite storage) that would result in the release, disposition, or disposal of radioactive liquids.

C. Crane

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If your understanding is different or if you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Steven Orth of my staff at (630) 829-9827.

Sincerely,

/RA/

James L. Caldwell
Regional Administrator

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

cc: Site Vice President - Braidwood Station
Plant Manager - Braidwood Station
Regulatory Assurance Manager - Braidwood Station
Chief Operating Officer
Senior Vice President - Nuclear Services
Vice President - Operations Support
Vice President - Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Director Licensing
Manager Licensing - Braidwood and Byron
Senior Counsel, Nuclear, Mid-West Regional
Operating Group
Document Control Desk - Licensing
Assistant Attorney General
Illinois Emergency Management Agency
State Liaison Officer
Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

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- Plant Manager - Braidwood Station
- Regulatory Assurance Manager - Braidwood Station
- Chief Operating Officer
- Senior Vice President - Nuclear Services
- Vice President - Operations Support
- Vice President - Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
- Director Licensing
- Manager Licensing - Braidwood and Byron
- Senior Counsel, Nuclear, Mid-West Regional
Operating Group
- Document Control Desk - Licensing
- Assistant Attorney General
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency
- State Liaison Officer
- Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission

See Previous Concurrence

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