

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 04/12/06

EDO CONTROL: G20060270  
DOC DT: 03/15/06  
FINAL REPLY:

Jame E. Zelko  
Will County Health Department  
and Community Health Center

TO:

OPA

FOR SIGNATURE OF : \*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO:

Strosnider, NMSS

DESC:

ROUTING:

Handling and Storage of Tritiated Water -  
Braidwood

Reyes  
Virgilio  
Kane  
Silber  
Dean  
Cyr/Burns  
Caldwell, RIII  
Brenner, OPA

DATE: 03/22/06

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NMSS

Strosnider

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Template: EDO-001

E.RIDS: EDO-01



# WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT & COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

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Executive Director

March 15, 2006

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11555 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, Maryland 20852-2738

To Whom It May Concern:

The Will County Health Department is seeking information pertinent to the handling and storage of tritiated water in the wake of an ongoing series of mishaps involving Exelon's Braidwood Nuclear Generating Station. We request that you provide us with the information we need to protect the public health in the County.

Recent Exelon disclosures have documented several incidents involving millions of gallons of water contaminated with tritium, a radioactive hydrogen isotope potentially linked to excess cancer mortality. The latest disclosure occurred March 14, when winds apparently led to the partial collapse of a berm wall surrounding storage tanks containing tritiated water.

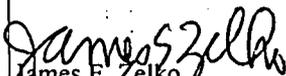
According to an Exelon press release, the collapse allowed two hundred (200) gallons of contaminated water to escape from the lined berm. Tritium levels in the escaped water were about nine times higher than federal ground and drinking water limits, but did not exceed limits established for surface water.

Similar incidents have dramatically eroded public confidence and generated rampant skepticism concerning the government's ability to provide regulatory oversight. More importantly, the presence of tritium leads to serious questions about potential health risks for thousands of residents living near the nuclear generation station.

At the direction of the Will County Executive and the Will County Board, we are working closely with a consultant to assess the current impact of tritium leaks at the Braidwood nuclear facility. Our immediate goals focus on a drinking water sampling initiative designed to identify the presence of tritium and other radioactive contaminants that may pose significant public health risks. We will be glad to share our sampling results with you.

We need information on Exelon's tritium handling, storage and disposal plans. We also need information on Exelon's sampling methodologies and results. Most of all, we are looking for some type of systematic plan from your agency on how this issue will be managed until some permanent solution is obtained. We trust that you will assign this request a most urgent priority and help us with any information pertinent to these serious concerns.

Sincerely,

  
James E. Zelko  
Executive Director

Cc: Mr. Larry Walsh, Will County Executive  
Mr. James Moustis, Will County Board Chairman  
Mr. Jerry Weller, Representative, State of Illinois  
Mr. Richard J. Durbin, Senator, State of Illinois  
Mr. Barack Obama, Senator, State of Illinois

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