

11/30/05

Braidwood Groundwater Contamination – On November 30, 2005, the licensee informed the NRC Resident Inspectors of higher than expected tritium levels (~58,000 picoCuries per liter) measured in on-site monitoring wells at the norther edge of the owner controlled area. The licensee attributed the higher levels of tritium to historical vacuum breaker valve leakage in the circulating water blowdown line to the Kankakee River that occurred in 1998 and 2000. The licensee uses the blowdown line to perform liquid effluent releases to the river. Region III dispatched a senior radiation specialist to assist the resident inspector in reviewing the licensee's sampling results, evaluation, and mitigative actions. The State of Illinois was notified, and the onsite Illinois Inspector is observing the NRC's inspection.

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