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To: Anne Boland
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Subject:

E-14

On November 30, 2005, the NRC began monitoring Exelon Generating Company's efforts related to the identification of elevated tritium levels measured in groundwater on the Braidwood site located in Braceville, Illinois and the potential for migration of the tritium offsite. Tritium is a radioactive substance produced by all operating nuclear reactors. The utility attributed the elevated levels of tritium to historical leakage in a blowdown line that is used to discharge radioactive liquid waste to the Kankakee River. Since that time, the licensee has expanded its characterization efforts through the installation of additional monitoring wells and sampling of nearby residential drinking water wells. Measurable levels of tritium have been identified in offsite groundwater monitoring wells and in one residential well. To date, the levels identified in the residential well have been below the EPA drinking water standard for tritium and consequently do not represent a health and safety hazard. The NRC has been conducting independent radiological analysis of selected environmental monitoring samples to confirm the licensee's assessments. The NRC continues to monitor the licensee's progress in characterizing the migration of the tritium, confirming the source of the tritium, and evaluating the utility's recovery actions. Liquid radioactive waste discharges have ceased and will not continue at the site until the integrity of the discharge line is confirmed.