

From: Steven Orth *RTT*
To: Monte Phillips
Date: Fri, Jan 6, 2006 8:59 AM
Subject: Braidwood EDO bullet

Monte,

Attached is a bullet for this afternoon's EDO call.

Thank you,

Steve

CC: Anne Boland; Cynthia Pederson; Jan Strasma; John White; Mark Ring; Nirodh Shah; Peter Habighorst; Richard Skokowski; Roland Lickus

E-56

Braidwood Groundwater Contamination

The licensee has suspended liquid radwaste discharges since the groundwater contamination was identified on November 30, 2005. Liquid radwaste is being stored onsite in temporary storage tanks. Radwaste discharges will not resume until the blowdown line integrity is verified. A licensee meeting with nearby residents took place on December 12, 2005, which Region III staff and State officials attended. Tentative, future licensee meetings with the residents are planned for later in January 2006.

Current sample results onsite have identified levels of tritium as high as 250,000 picocuries per liter in a deep well (25'). Offsite levels have been identified as high as about 59,000 picocuries per liter (non-drinking water well) and at about 1400 - 1600 picocuries per liter in one residential drinking water well. NRC split-sample analyses are ongoing, as are NRC inspection activities to assess the licensee's recovery efforts and plume characterization. Initial sample results (including independent NRC samples of residential wells) have detected levels of tritium consistent with the licensee's results. As part of that inspection, members of the Region III staff observed the licensee's non-destructive evaluation of sections of the blowdown line. The results of that testing are under evaluation.

On December 16, 2005, the State of Illinois Environmental Protection Agency issued the licensee a Violation Notice for contaminating the groundwater. On December 20, 2005, members of the Region III staff participated in a meeting between and Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the licensee in Springfield, Illinois, which the licensee discussed the apparent origin of the contamination, its monitoring program and initial characterization, and the its future plans. Following that meeting, the Region, NRR, EDO, and OGC staffs conducted an internal meeting to discuss regulatory authority and preemption. A subsequent NRC internal meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2006, to further discuss the Illinois violations and regulatory jurisdiction issues.