

Release

From: Steven Orth *RTT*
To: Monte Phillips
Date: 1/9/06 9:11AM
Subject: SAFE Board Update: Braidwood

Monte,

Attached is an updated for the Braidwood entry on the SAFE Board.

Thank you,

Steve

CC: John Cassidy; John House

E-61

Braidwood Groundwater Contamination – The licensee has suspended radioactive liquid discharges since the groundwater contamination was identified on November 30, 2005. As of January 6, 2006, the licensee has measured tritium as high as about 250,000 picoCuries per liter in onsite and offsite monitoring wells and has measured 1,524 picoCuries per liter of tritium in one offsite residential drinking water well. Liquid radwaste is being stored onsite in temporary storage tanks. Radioactive liquid 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. NRC split-sample analyses are ongoing, as are NRC inspection activities to assess the licensee's recovery efforts and plume characterization. On December 16, 2005, the State of Illinois issued a violation notice to the licensee based on tritium activity in both onsite and offsite groundwater wells. On December 20, 2005, members of the Region III staff participated in a meeting between the 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 its future plans. Region III and headquarters staffs (OGC, NRR, OEDO, STP) are evaluating regulatory jurisdictional issues, and an internal NRC meeting is planned for January 18, 2006. The licensee also plans to have an additional meeting with nearby residents on January 26, 2006, which Region III and State officials plan to attend.