

**From:** Doug Starkey <sup>oe</sup>  
**To:** Steven Orth  
**Date:** Wed, Dec 7, 2005 1:39 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: Braidwood 1998 coolant spill

Steve,

I work in OE in HQ. Ken O'Brien said you might be familiar with the issue in the attached e-mail. After you've read through the e-mail, would you give me a call to discuss. 301-415-3456

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From: Doug Starkey <sup>69</sup>  
To: Kenneth O'Brien  
Date: Tue, Dec 6, 2005 1:16 PM  
Subject: Braidwood 1998 coolant spill

Ken,

Can you direct me to someone in Region III with whom I can talk regarding the below news articles. Specifically, what do we know about the 1998 spill? Was it documented in an inspection report? Did NRC take any enforcement action because of the spill? What corrective actions did the licensee take at the time of the spill?

The following article appeared in the December 2, 2005, Nuclear News Flashes.

**ELEVATED TRITIUM LEVELS HAVE BEEN DETECTED IN GROUNDWATER AT BRAIDWOOD, Exelon Nuclear said today in a press release. "Tritium concentrations as high as 58,000 picocuries per liter were found" on site near the location of a large 1998 coolant spill, but "the closest private residential wells to the site showed no tritium above natural background levels," the company said. Exelon said it will work with Conestoga Rovers Associates, an environmental remediation firm, to pump "water with the highest concentration of tritium" from the ground. "There is no safety or health threat from this tritium," Braidwood site vice president Keith Polson said in the press release.**

The following article, apparently on the same subject, appeared in today's (12-6-05) "NRC in the News Today" on the NRC internal web page.

**NRC Says Exelon Taking Steps To Remedy Braidwood Tritium Concentration. The Morris (IL) Daily Herald (12/6, Hustis) reports, "Braidwood Station was making good today on its pledge to remedy the tritium situation in groundwater near the plant, a spokesman said. 'In fact, the site has already begun remediation efforts, which include drilling of remediation wells,' Braidwood Communications Director Neal Miller noted. The work will include pumping from the ground the water with the highest concentrations of tritium, and will create a cone for collecting any water containing tritium, which may have drifted from the site." The Daily Herald adds, "Region 3 spokesman Jan Strasma, of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Lisle, said today the levels of tritium found in the water, while elevated, are still low, and do not represent a health and safety issue. He said Braidwood Station owner Exelon Generating is collecting additional samples of water, and also is looking into what caused the incident." The Daily Herald adds, "Strasma said, at this point, there is "no evidence of a health and safety issue connected with the incident. 'They believe they know what caused it,' he said of Exelon. 'They are now developing plans of what to do about it, and whether there's a means of reversing the flow of groundwater.'"**