

From:

To:

Date:

Subject:

Steven Orth

Anne Boland; Richard Skokowski

Fri, Feb 10, 2006 11:21 AM

Braidwood Call at 12:30 pm Today

12-72

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12-72

**From:** Mindy Landau *ML*  
**To:** Steven Orth  
**Date:** Fri, Feb 10, 2006 11:26 AM  
**Subject:** Re: Braidwood Tritium Contamination - Update

Steve, really nice update! These are a great idea, thanks...

Mindy

>>> Steven Orth 02/10/06 11:26 AM >>>  
**Greetings,**

*MSL  
releasable  
7/30/06*

The following are a synopsis of weekly events concerning the Braidwood Contamination:

**Godley Meeting:** On Tuesday, February 7, 2006, Region III attended a contentious and heated public meeting at the Village of Godley, Illinois (near Braidwood Station) to discuss tritium contamination in groundwater. The meeting was widely attended (approx 300 attendees), including members of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), media, local/state/federal officials (or staffers), and anti-nuclear activists. Region III and the Illinois EPA consistently communicated the position that the public is safe. Region III indicated that we were concerned that the radioactivity was in an area that was unintended, but that the resulting contamination was below NRC and Federal EPA standards. We also communicated our independent sampling/analysis and inspection focus. Paul Gunter (NIRS), K. Leinweber (AdHocProject Committee) and Dr. and Mrs. Sauer provided statements concerning the significant health hazards resulting from any exposure to radioactivity. Residents reacted very emotionally to the information presented, accused EXELON of covering up the issues, and challenged the independence of the NRC and Illinois EPA. At times, the crowd became somewhat hostile, and media coverage was mixed, but stressed the public distrust of EXELON and the regulators.

**EXELON correspondence:** On Tuesday, February 7, 2006, the licensee provided the NRC with a written, docketed correspondence stating its cessation of radioactive liquid discharges. The letter included a statement that communications with the NRC will be performed prior to resuming any discharges through the blowdown line. The Region is pursuing extending the communications to include radioactive liquid discharges through any line and prior to the licensee's processing or release of the radioactive liquids in temporary storage.

**Briefing of Congressional Staff:** On Thursday, February 9, 2006, Region III participated in a briefing of Congressional Staff (Cong. Weller and Sen. Obama staffers), with members of NRR, OCA, and OEDO, to provide an update of Braidwood Tritium contamination. The Region III staff provided current information including the licensee's activities, NRC activities, extent of contamination identified, and public and media participation. Region III also indicated its participation at the Village of Godley meeting and the level of public and media interest in the event. Congressional staff appeared to be appreciative of the level of the briefing, but provided feedback indicating that external interest was rising and discussing concern regarding the rise in additional contamination found offsite. Sen. Obama's staffer indicated that the NRC should expect to answer questions concerning Braidwood at the March 2006 subcommittee meetings.

**Region III Inspection Activities:** Region III will resume onsite radiation safety inspection activities on Monday, February 13.

If you have any questions, please contact me.

Have a good weekend,

Steve

*Release*