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NRC Public Meetings to Discuss Environmental Reviews of Byron, Braidwood Nuclear Plant License Renewals

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will hold public meetings Aug. 20 and Aug. 21 near the Byron and Braidwood nuclear power plants in Illinois to discuss the agency's environmental reviews of the plants' proposed license renewal.

Meetings for the Byron Station environmental review will be held Aug. 20 at the Byron Forest Preserve, 7993 N. River Road, in Byron. Meetings for the Braidwood environmental review will be held Aug. 21 at the Fossil Ridge Public Library, 386 W. Kennedy Road, in Braidwood. On each date, sessions will be held from 2-4 p.m. and 7-9 p.m., with NRC staff explaining the review process and taking comments from the public about the scope of the reviews.

Exelon Generation Co. filed an application, dated May 29, seeking to renew the operating licenses of the two plants for an additional 20 years of operation. The Braidwood Nuclear Station, located 20 miles southwest of Joliet, and the Byron Nuclear Station, located 17 miles southwest of Rockford, each have two pressurized-water reactors. The current operating licenses for Braidwood expire on Oct. 17, 2026, for Unit 1 and Dec. 18, 2027, for Unit 2. The licenses for Byron expire Oct. 31, 2024, for Unit 1 and Nov. 6, 2026, for Unit 2.

Exelon, in submitting a single application to cover both plants, cited extensive similarities in the systems, structures and components of each that are analyzed in a license renewal review. The NRC will conduct separate environmental reviews because of differences in environmental and cultural resources surrounding the plants.

Members of the public wishing to submit comments in writing on the scope of the environmental reviews may do so at the federal government's rulemaking website, www.regulations.gov, using Docket ID NRC-2013-0178 for Byron and Docket ID NRC-2013-0169 for Braidwood. They may also be mailed (using the same docket IDs) to Cindy Bladey, Chief, Rules, Announcements and Directives Branch (RADB), Office of Administration, Mail Stop: 3WFN 06A44M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington DC 20555-0001. Comments on both reviews will be accepted through Sept. 27.