



UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

September 14, 2015

Mr. Michael P. Gallagher  
Vice President, License Renewal Projects  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
200 Exelon Way  
P.O. Box 500  
Kennett Square, PA

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE REVISION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE BRAIDWOOD STATIONS, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION (TAC NOS. MF1832 AND MF1833)

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

By letter dated May 29, 2013, Exelon Generation Company, LLC, submitted an application pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51 and 10 CFR Part 54 to renew operating licenses NPF-72 and NPF-77 for Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2 (Braidwood), for review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). This letter is to inform you of a change in the environmental review schedule for the Braidwood license renewal review.

Regarding the staff's environmental review, by letter dated January 29, 2015, the NRC staff issued a letter revising the environmental review schedule. This revision established a March 2015 issuance date of the Braidwood draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Subsequently, the draft SEIS was published on March 23, 2015.

The reason for this schedule change centers around the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA), which requires consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to determine whether endangered or threatened species or their habitats will be affected by a proposed activity and what, if any, mitigation measures are needed to address the impacts.

In response to the Braidwood draft SEIS and biological assessment, FWS submitted a comment letter stating that it did not concur with NRC's initial finding of "may affect, but not likely to adversely affect" for the impact of the proposed activity on threatened or endangered species, specifically the endangered sheepsnose mussel. FWS did not think enough information was available to adequately determine the nature of effects and requested more recent information to determine the possible occurrence of sheepsnose mussel in the action area. FWS makes the final determination of impact to certain ESA species, plant or animal.

M. Gallagher

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In order to comply with a State of Illinois 2010 Threatened and Endangered Species Issue Incidental Take Authorization (ITA) between Exelon and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) associated with permitting the Braidwood River Diffuser Project, Exelon is required by IDNR to perform a survey of the entire construction zone in the 5<sup>th</sup> year following initial operation of the river diffuser. The purpose of the survey is to determine if State and Federally-listed species, including the sheepsnose mussel, have colonized or recolonized areas affected by the river diffuser construction and operation. Via an email on August 31, 2015, Exelon informed NRC staff that the survey was scheduled to be completed September 1 and 2, 2015, and the final survey report would be submitted by the end of September. Therefore, NRC will delay issuance of the Braidwood final SEIS from September 2015 to November 2015 to review the results of the sheepsnose mussel study and revise the Braidwood final SEIS as appropriate. Therefore, the final licensing decision for Braidwood License Renewal Application (LRA) will be postponed until January 2016, if no hearing is granted.

Enclosed is the NRC staff's revised review schedule for the Braidwood LRA. There are no changes to the safety review schedule or the final decision for the Byron LRA. If you have any questions related to the revised environmental schedule, please contact Richard Baum at 301-415-0018 or by e-mail at [Richard.Baum@nrc.gov](mailto:Richard.Baum@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Christopher G. Miller, Director  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-456 and 50-457

Enclosure:  
Revised Schedule

cc w/encl: Listserv

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Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Christopher G. Miller, Director  
 Division of License Renewal  
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-456 and 50-457

Enclosure:  
 Revised Schedule

cc w/encl: Listserv  
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\*concurring via email

OFFICE	LA:DLR:RPB2*	PM:DLR:RPB2	PM:DLR:RPB1*	BC:DLR:RERB
NAME	IBetts	RBaum	JDaily	DWrona
DATE	8/31/15	9/2/15	9/4/15	9/11/15
OFFICE	BC:DLR:RPB2	BC:DLR:RPB1*	D:DLR	
NAME	JDanna	YDiaz-Sanabria	CMiller	
DATE	9/11/15	9/4/15	9/14/15	

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**BYRON STATION AND BRAIDWOOD STATION  
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION  
UPDATED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE**

<b>Milestones</b>	<b>Schedule Date</b>	<b>Actual Date</b>
Receive license renewal application (LRA)	05/29/13	05/29/13
Publish Federal Register Notice (FRN) – LRA availability	06/2013	06/13/13
Publish FRN – acceptance/rejection and opportunity for hearing	07/2013	07/24/13
Publish FRN – environmental scoping meeting	07/2013	08/06/13
Audit – Scoping & Screening Methodology 1 (at Byron)	07/2013	07/20/13
Audit – Aging Management Programs 1 (at Byron)	08/2013	08/20/13
Public Meeting - License Renewal Overview and Environmental Scoping meetings	08/20/13- 08/21/13	08/20/13 (Byron) 08/21/13 (Braidwood)
Deadline for filing hearing requests and petitions for intervention	09/2013	09/23/13
Audit – Environmental (Byron)	09/2013	09/19/13
Environmental scoping period ends*	09/2013	09/27/13
Audit – Scoping & Screening Methodology 2 (at Braidwood)	10/2013	12/02/13- 12/04/13
Audit – Aging Management Programs 2 (at Braidwood)	10/2013	12/02/13- 12/06/13
Audit – Environmental (Braidwood)	11/2013	11/19/13
Regional Inspection (Byron)	08/2014	08/04/14- 08/08/14 and 08/22/14
Regional Inspection (Braidwood)	09/2014	09/15/14- 09/26/14
Issue safety evaluation report (SER) with open items	11/2014	10/30/14
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee meeting	12/2014	12/03/14
Issue draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) - Byron	12/2014	12/31/14
Publish FRN – Byron draft SEIS available for comments	01/2015	01/02/15
Public Meeting – Byron draft SEIS meeting	02/2015	02/03/15
End of draft SEIS comment period – Byron	02/2015	02/20/15
Issue draft SEIS - Braidwood	03/2015	03/18/15
Publish FRN – Braidwood draft SEIS available for comments	03/2015	03/25/15
Public Meeting – Braidwood draft SEIS meeting	04/2015	04/21/15
End of draft SEIS comment period – Braidwood	05/2015	05/12/15
Issue final SER	07/2015	07/06/15
Issue final SEIS – Byron	07/2015	07/15/15
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FRN Published – availability of final SEIS – Byron	08/2015	07/24/15
ACRS full committee meeting	09/2015	09/10/15
Issue final SEIS – Braidwood	11/2015	

ENCLOSURE

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency FRN Published – availability of final SEIS – Braidwood	11/2015	
Decision – Director, NRR – Byron	11/2015	
Decision – Director, NRR – Braidwood	01/2016	
Commission decision, if hearing granted	TBD	

Letter to M. Gallagher from C. Miller dated September 14, 2015

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE REVISION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE BYRON AND  
BRAIDWOOD STATIONS, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL  
APPLICATION (TAC NO. MF1832 AND MF1833)

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