



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

January 20, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO: Chairman Burns  
Commissioner Svinicki  
Commissioner Ostendorff  
Commissioner Baran

FROM: William M. Dean, Director /RA/  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

SUBJECT: RENEWAL OF FULL-POWER OPERATING LICENSES FOR  
BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

In its July 25, 2005, Staff Requirements Memorandum for COMSECY-05-0025, "Renewal of Full-Power Operating License for Arkansas Nuclear One, Unit 2," the Commission directed that the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff notify the Commission via memorandum 3 days before the issuance of a renewed license. Accordingly, the staff is informing the Commission that it is ready to issue Renewed Facility Operating Licenses No. NPF-72 and No. NPF-77 for Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2, respectively, on January 27, 2016.

By letter dated May 29, 2013, Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon), submitted its application to renew the operating licenses for Byron Station, Units 1 and 2, and Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2. The staff reviewed the license renewal application in accordance with Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, "Environmental Protection Regulations for Domestic Licensing and Related Regulatory Functions," and 10 CFR Part 54, "Requirements for Renewal of Operating Licenses for Nuclear Power Plants." Based on the Byron and Braidwood Stations being located in different areas of the State of Illinois, the staff needed to complete separate and distinct environmental reviews for each station. The environmental review for the Byron Station was completed in July 2015, and the renewed licenses were issued in November 2015. The environmental review for the Braidwood Station required additional information as a result of an endangered species potentially located in the river near the station. The environmental review for the Braidwood Station was completed in November 2015, permitting the renewed licenses to be issued in January 2016.

The staff documented the results of its safety review in the safety evaluation report entitled "Safety Evaluation Report Related to the License Renewal of Byron Station, Units 1 and 2, and Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2," issued July 2015. The staff documented the results of its Braidwood specific environmental review in a supplemental environmental impact statement published in November 2015 as NUREG-1437, Supplement 55, "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants Regarding Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2."

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Region III also performed inspections, as described in a memorandum dated August 7, 2015, from Cynthia Pederson, Regional Administrator. In addition, the staff prepared a record of decision (ROD) (Agencywide Document Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML15322A317), which will be referenced in the *Federal Register* notice of issuance for Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2. The ROD concluded that the standards for issuance of renewed operating licenses, as described in 10 CFR 54.29, have been met and the requirements of Section 102 of the National Environmental Policy Act have been satisfied.

In accordance with 10 CFR 54.25, "Report of the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards," the Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) reviewed the license renewal application for Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2. ACRS completed its review during its 627th meeting, held on September 9–12, 2015, and documented its findings in a letter to the Commission dated September 21, 2015 (ADAMS Accession No. ML15264A955).

The June 5, 2002, staff requirements memorandum for SECY-02-0088, "Turkey Point Nuclear Plant, Units 3 and 4, Renewal of Full-Power Operating Licenses," (ADAMS Accession No. ML021560479) authorizes the Director of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) to issue all future uncontested license renewals without prior Commission authorization. Therefore, the Director of NRR plans to issue Renewed Facility Operating Licenses No. NPF-72 and No. NPF-77 for Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2, respectively, on January 27, 2016.

Docket Nos. 50-456 and 50-457

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**ADAMS Accession No.: ML15336A017**

**\* concurred via e-mail**

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STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2

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