

Environmental Impact Appraisal
Supporting the Request for Extension of
the Dates for Completion of Construction of
Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2

1. Description or Proposed Action

The action requested is the issuance of an ORDER pertaining to Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2. The ORDER would extend the latest completion date of Unit 1 by 54 months and the latest completion date of Unit 2 by 54 months.

2. Summary Description of the Probable Impacts of the Proposed Action

The environmental impacts associated with construction of Braidwood have been previously addressed in the NRC staff's final environmental statement, construction permit stage (FES-CP) issued July, 1974 and determined by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in their Partial Initial Decision - Environmental and Site Suitability Matters dated January 8, 1975.

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board identified in the Initial Decision the following major effects due to construction:

- A. Approximately 734 acres of agricultural land, 848 acres of woods and fallow field, and 2838 acres of strip mine will be required for the station and the cooling lake.
- B. Eleven farm residences will be displaced. Farming on part of the site will be suspended.
- C. Traffic on local roads will increase because of construction and commuting activities.
- D. Approximately 2376 acres of transmission line right-of-way will occupy land used primarily for agriculture and also some wooded land. Approximately ten acres will be used for tower bases; the remainder of the farmlands can remain in use.
- E. Minor and temporary impacts to the biota of the station area river bank will result from construction activities.

With respect to Item A, extending the construction permit would have no effect on the major portion of the land which is used for the permanent plant facilities and the cooling pond. It would delay the return to agriculture or a natural state of approximately 110 acres which are temporarily disturbed by construction related activities.

The impact of resident displacement identified in Item B has already occurred. The farm buildings have been razed and the former farmland on the site that is not presently utilized for station construction has been seeded to a naturalizing cover. Construction in the pipeline corridor has been completed and farming has been resumed in those areas where it was temporarily suspended during construction. Therefore, the construction permit extension will not add impacts in these areas.

With respect to Item C, construction truck traffic has peaked and is declining. The effects of commuter traffic will be extended. Commuter related traffic is not expected to increase substantially from its present level. The effect of any increase in commuter traffic will not be significant, however, because of the access to Interstate Highway 55 and nearby communities via Illinois Highways 53, 113, and 129.

The acreages in Item D have been reduced by revisions to the original transmission plan. The total transmission right-of-way consists of 2100 acres. Less land will be committed to tower bases due to the selection of single shaft structures for tangent and light angles (up to 130°) rather than the wide based lattice steel towers specified in the original environmental report, thus reducing the impact on farming activities. The Braidwood to Davis Creek TSS portion of the transmission line is completed. Construction of the remainder from Davis Creek TSS to Crete TSS will begin in 1984. The extension of the construction schedule will delay the minor impacts of construction discussed in the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's Initial Decision.

With respect to Item E construction of the river intake and blowdown structures has been completed. Care was taken during construction to minimize the impacts on the river bank and in the river. The removal of trees was kept to a minimum and landscaping plans specify the replanting of trees and shrubs at both structures. The aquatic monitoring program which was conducted during and after the construction period found the impacts to be localized with no permanent effects attributable to the construction work in the river. No further construction related impacts to the river bank or the river are expected.

3. Conclusion and Basis for Finding of No Significant Impact

On the basis of the above, it is our opinion that there will be no significant impacts attributable to the requested action.