

**From:** Wiebe, Joel  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 2, 2021 9:57 AM  
**To:** Tom Loomis  
**Subject:** NRC Acceptance Review of Braidwood - Proposed Alternative for Exam of Pwr Circumferential and Longitudinal Shell-to-Head Welds and Nozzle-to-Shell Welds

Hi Tom,

By letter dated May 12, 2021 (Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) Accession No. ML21133A297), Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) submitted a proposed alternative to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code, Section XI, "Rules for Inservice Inspection of Nuclear Power Plant Components," on the basis that the proposed alternative provides an acceptable level of quality and safety. Specifically, Exelon is requesting an alternative to volumetric examination of pressurizer circumferential and longitudinal shell-to-head welds and nozzle-to-shell welds to extend the inspection frequency from 10 years to the remainder of the currently licensed operating periods for Braidwood Generating Station (Braidwood), Units 1 and 2. The purpose of this e-mail is to provide the results of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff's acceptance review of this request. The acceptance review was performed to determine if there is sufficient technical information in scope and depth to allow the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review. The acceptance review is also intended to identify whether the application has any readily apparent information insufficiencies in its characterization of the regulatory requirements or the licensing basis of the plant. Acceptance review of other requests in Exelon's letter dated May 12, 2021, will be addressed separately.

The NRC staff has reviewed the submittal and concluded that it does provide technical information in sufficient detail to enable the NRC staff to complete its detailed technical review and make an independent assessment regarding the acceptability of the proposed alternative in terms of regulatory requirements and the protection of public health and safety and the environment. Given the lesser scope and depth of the acceptance review as compared to the detailed technical review, there may be instances in which issues that impact the NRC staff's ability to complete the detailed technical review are identified despite completion of an adequate acceptance review. If additional information is needed, you will be advised by separate correspondence.

Based on the information provided in your submittal, the NRC staff has estimated that this request will take approximately 180 hours to complete. The NRC staff expects to complete this review in approximately 12 months from the date of this acceptance, which is May 2022. If there are emergent complexities or challenges in our review that would cause changes to the initial forecasted completion date or significant changes in the forecasted hours, the reasons for the changes, along with the new estimates, will be communicated during the routine interactions with the assigned project manager.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (301) 415-6606.

Joel

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