

May 31, 2001

Mr. Oliver D. Kingsley, President
Exelon Nuclear
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
1400 Opus Place, Suite 500
Downers Grove, IL 60515

SUBJECT: ANNUAL ASSESSMENT LETTER - BRAIDWOOD NUCLEAR POWER STATION
(REPORT 50-456/01-01(DRP); 50-457/01-01(DRP))

Dear Mr. Kingsley:

On May 1, 2001, the NRC staff completed its End-of-Cycle plant performance assessment of Braidwood Nuclear Power Station. The End-of-Cycle review for the Braidwood plant involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the period April 2, 2000 through March 31, 2001. The purpose of this letter is to inform you of our assessment of your safety performance during this period and our plans for future inspections at your facility so that you will have an opportunity to prepare for these inspections and to inform us of any planned inspections which may conflict with your plant activities.

Overall, Braidwood operated in a manner that preserved public health and safety and fully met all cornerstone objectives. Plant performance for the most recent quarter, as well as for the first three quarters of the assessment cycle, was within the Licensee Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix, based on all inspection findings being classified as having very low safety significance (Green) and all PIs indicating performance at a level requiring no additional NRC oversight (Green). Therefore, we plan to conduct only baseline inspections at your facility through May 31, 2002.

The enclosure details the scheduled inspections that will occur through May 31, 2002. The inspection plan is provided to minimize the resource impact on your staff and to allow for scheduling conflicts and personnel availability to be resolved in advance of inspector arrival on site. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature.

For your information, the NRC is in the process of aligning the inspection and assessment cycle with the calendar year. In order to transition to a calendar year cycle (January 1 - December 31), the next inspection and assessment cycle will consist of only three quarters (i.e., the second, third and fourth calendar quarters of CY 2001). As a result, a quarterly review will be conducted for the third calendar quarter (July 1 - September 30) in lieu of a mid-cycle review. The impact on the inspection plan, which is included as an enclosure, is minimal. Activities planned for the transition cycle represent only 60-80 percent of those activities that would be accomplished during a typical 12-month inspection and assessment cycle.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790 of the NRC's "Rules of Practice," a copy of this letter and its enclosure will be made available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records (PARS) component of NRC's document system (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/NRC/ADAMS/index.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change this inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact me at (630) 829-9729 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Ann Marie Stone, Chief
Branch 3
Division of Reactor Projects

Docket Nos. 50-456; 50-457
License Nos. NPF-72; NPF-77

Enclosure: Braidwood Inspection/Activity Plan

See Attached Distribution

DOCUMENT NAME: G:\secy\eoc letters\braidwood 2001.wpd

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