

August 27, 2003

Mr. John L. Skolds, President
Exelon Nuclear
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
4300 Winfield Road
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: MID-CYCLE PERFORMANCE REVIEW AND INSPECTION PLAN -
BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 (REPORT 50-456/04-01; 50-457/04-01)

Dear Mr. Skolds:

On July 30, 2003, the NRC staff completed its mid-cycle plant performance assessment of the Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2. The mid-cycle review for the Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2 involved the participation of all technical divisions in evaluating performance indicators (PIs) for the most recent quarter and inspection results for the first half of the current assessment cycle, January 1 - December 31, 2003. 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 that may conflict with your plant activities.

With respect to Unit 1, in August 2003, you noted that in your previous October 2002, January 2003, April 2003, and July 2003 submittals of performance indicator information, your staff incorrectly noted that the Safety System Unavailability, Heat Removal System (Auxiliary Feedwater) performance indicator was within the Green performance band. Your staff determined that the fault exposure hours against the 1B auxiliary feedwater system was incorrect and as a result, you should have reported that performance was in the White performance band between the entire period of November 2001 through July 2003. On August 19, 2003, your staff submitted correct information to reflect this revised information. The circumstances which caused this issue will be reviewed at a later date.

As a result of this continued White performance indicator, plant performance for Unit 1 for the most recent quarter was within the Regulatory Response column of the NRC's Action Matrix. In February 2002, Supplemental Inspection Procedure 95001 "Inspection For One or Two White Inputs In a Strategic Performance Area" was conducted to better understand the declining performance. The inspection results were documented in NRC Inspection Report 50-456/02-04(DRP). Although we will continue to monitor your troubleshooting and corrective actions associated with the 1B auxiliary feedwater system, continued performance issues with that system may result in additional inspection activity.

With respect to Unit 2, plant performance for the most recent quarter 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 for Unit 2 through September 30, 2004.

The enclosed inspection plan details the inspections scheduled through September 30, 2004. 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 onsite. Two infrequently performed inspections will be conducted this year. These include (1) Safety System Design and Performance Capability and Modification inspection scheduled for August and September 2003, and (2) an additional Problem Identification and Resolution inspection which is scheduled for November 3 through December 5, 2003. Routine resident inspections are not listed due to their ongoing and continuous nature. In addition, the Braidwood Station has been chosen for a pilot inspection program which involves the consolidation of some of our existing inspection procedures. The inspections in the last 6 months of the inspection plan are tentative and may be revised at the end-of-cycle review meeting.

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/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room).

If circumstances arise which cause us to change the inspection plan, we will contact you to discuss the change as soon as possible. Please contact Ann Marie Stone, Chief, Reactor Projects Branch 3 at (630) 829-9729 with any questions you may have regarding this letter or the inspection plan.

Sincerely,

/RA by Steve A. Reynolds acting for/

Geoffrey E. Grant, Director
Division of Reactor Projects

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

Enclosure: Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2 Inspection/Activity Plan

See Attached Distribution

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DATE	08/26/03		08/26/03		08/26/03				

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cc w/encl: Site Vice President - Braidwood
Braidwood Station Plant Manager
Regulatory Assurance Manager - Braidwood
Chief Operating Officer
Senior Vice President - Nuclear Services
Senior Vice President - Mid-West Regional
Operating Group
Vice President - Mid-West Operations Support
Vice President - Licensing and Regulatory Affairs
Director Licensing - Mid-West Regional
Operating Group
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State Liaison Officer
Chairman, Illinois Commerce Commission
J. Mikan, Will County Executive/
Board Chairman
P. Kaupas, Will County Sheriff
W. Ferguson, Will County Emergency Management
Coordinator/Director
The Honorable Arthur Schultz
J. Mezera, Joliet City Manager
J. Church, Kendall County Board Chairman
R. Randall, Kendall County Sheriff
P. "Barry" Nelson, Grundy County Board Chairman
J. Olson, Grundy County Sheriff
Grundy County Emergency Management
Coordinator/Director
The Honorable Richard Kopczick
The Honorable Richard Ellis
The Honorable Phillip "Leo" Middleton
The Honorable Joseph Fracaro
The Honorable Elmer Rolando
The Honorable Harvey Taylor
The Honorable Tony McGann
The Honorable Joe Cook
M. Gibson, Channahon Village Administrator
The Honorable Richard Chapman
K. Carroll, Shorewood Village Administrator
The Honorable Robert Blum
The Honorable Marchel Michael
The Honorable Donald Green
INPO

ADAMS Distribution:

AJM

DFT

H. Nieh (HKN), OEDO

Project Director, NRR

Project Mgr., NRR

RidsNrrDipmlipb

JLC1

GEG

HBC

RML2

SRI Braidwood

DRPIII

DRSIII

PLB1

JRK1

Braidwood
Inspection / Activity Plan
09/01/2003 - 09/30/2004

Unit Number	Inspection Activity	Title	No. of Staff on Site	Planned Dates Start	Planned Dates End	Inspection Type
	SSDI - COMBINED SAFETY SYSTEM DESIGN/MODS/50.59		6			
1, 2	IP 71111.DS	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		08/25/2003	09/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111102	Evaluation of Changes, Tests, or Experiments		08/25/2003	09/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111117B	Permanent Plant Modifications		08/25/2003	09/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7111121	Safety System Design and Performance Capability		08/25/2003	09/12/2003	Baseline Inspections
	PI&R - PROBLEM IDENTIFICATION AND RESOLUTION		3			
1, 2	IP 71152B	Identification and Resolution of Problems		09/22/2003	10/17/2003	Baseline Inspections
	ISI - ISI & TI-150 FOR UNIT 2		2			
2	IP 2515/150	Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzles (NRC Bulletin 2002-0		11/10/2003	11/14/2003	Safety Issues
2	IP 7111108P	Inservice Inspection Activities - PWR		11/10/2003	11/14/2003	Baseline Inspections
	7112102 - OUTAGE ALARA		1			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		11/06/2003	11/14/2003	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112102	ALARA Planning and Controls		11/06/2003	11/14/2003	Baseline Inspections
	7112202 - RAD WASTE TRANSPORTATION		1			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		01/05/2004	01/09/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112202	Radioactive Material Processing and Transportation		01/05/2004	01/09/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		01/05/2004	01/09/2004	Baseline Inspections
	7112103 - NUCLEAR INSTRUMENTATION		2			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		04/19/2004	04/19/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112103	Radiation Monitoring Instrumentation and Protective Equipment		04/19/2004	04/19/2004	Baseline Inspections
	FY 2004 - BRAIDWOOD INIT PREP 01/2004		3			
1	W90071	OL - INITIAL EXAM - BRAIDWOOD - JAN/FEB 2004		06/14/2004	06/18/2004	Not Applicable
	7112201 - LIQUID & GASEOUS EFFLUENTS		2			
1, 2	IP 7112101	Access Control to Radiologically Significant Areas		07/12/2004	07/16/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 7112201	Radioactive Gaseous and Liquid Effluent Treatment and Monitoring Systems		07/12/2004	07/16/2004	Baseline Inspections
1, 2	IP 71151	Performance Indicator Verification		07/12/2004	07/16/2004	Baseline Inspections
	FY 2004 - BRAIDWOOD INIT EXAM 02/2004		3			
1	W90071	OL - INITIAL EXAM - BRAIDWOOD - JAN/FEB 2004		07/12/2004	07/16/2004	Not Applicable