



UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

AUG 14 1984

NEPA-FE-NRC-F06018-IL

Mr. B. J. Youngblood, Chief  
Licensing Branch No. 1  
Division of Licensing  
United States Nuclear  
Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Dear Mr. Youngblood:

We have completed our review of the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the operation of the Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2 in Will County, Illinois. This nuclear power plant will use two pressurized water reactors to produce up to 6850 megawatts of thermal energy. Two steam turbine-generators will use the heat produced to provide up to 2240 megawatts of electrical power. The exhaust steam will be condensed by cooling water circulated from a cooling pond. Makeup and blowdown water will be taken from, and discharged to, the Kankakee River. It is estimated that Unit 1 will be ready for fuel loading in August 1985, and that Unit 2 will be ready for fuel loading in August 1986.

On March 12, 1984, we commented on the Draft EIS for the Braidwood Station. Our comments expressed concern regarding the radioactive waste treatment systems, storage of high-level wastes (both on and off the site), and possible water quality impacts from soil erosion, both near the facility and on the spoil islands in the cooling lake. The responses provided in the Final EIS have addressed these concerns.

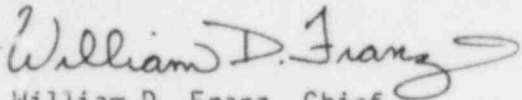
The response to our comments on the soil erosion control program indicated that no action had been taken to revegetate the spoil islands in the cooling pond because of a limited access agreement currently in effect that allows the Field Museum of Natural History to collect fossils from these islands. If, at the time of fuel delivery and loading (or at another future point), Commonwealth Edison Company determines not to renew this agreement, the spoil islands in the cooling pond should be revegetated. This action would prevent erosion that could result in reduction of the capacity of the pond and degradation of the quality of the water in the pond. Revegetation also would provide additional habitat for wildlife.

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We appreciate the opportunity to review this Final EIS. If you or your staff have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Ms. Kathleen Brennan of my staff at 312/353-2039 (commercial) or 353-2039 (FTS).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William D. Franz". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

William D. Franz, Chief  
Environmental Review Branch  
Planning and Management Division