

Braidwood Generating Station

COMMUNITYupdate

News for Braidwood Generating Station's Neighbors

Winter 2009

Braidwood Generating Station's Remediation Project Succeeding

Braidwood Station officials are pleased with the success of the current tritium remediation project on site.

Tritium levels in groundwater near the station have been reduced by more than 90 percent since remediation began in the summer of 2006.

The remediation project began after an environmental monitoring program at Braidwood found higher than background concentrations of tritium in groundwater close to an underground pipe inside the plant's northern boundary in November, 2005.

Tritium is an isotope of hydrogen that produces a very low level of radiation.

Further environmental testing and monitoring found higher than back-



Braidwood Station held a Community Information Night on Thursday, Dec. 4 in Wilmington.

ground levels of tritium in six separate locations, three of which extended beyond Exelon property.

The tritium came from leaking

See Remediation, Page 4

Message from Braidwood's Vice President Bryan Hanson

Dear Neighbors,

On behalf of the employees of Braidwood Station, I am pleased to provide this informative publication about our generation plant and our role in the local communities.

Our number one priority every day at Braidwood Station is ensuring the health and safety of the public and our employees. Recent NRC inspections, federal government emergency drills, and internal evaluations have proven our successful commitment to safety, both on site and in the surrounding areas.

We take great pride in being a safe

producer of electricity, while at the same time not emitting carbon dioxide. Braidwood Station recently celebrated its 20th anniversary of producing environmentally friendly commercial nuclear power.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative. If you have any comments or suggestions for future publications, please don't hesitate to contact us.



Sincerely,
Bryan Hanson
Braidwood Vice President

Emergency Response Planning An Important Part of Operations

Even with excellent operating and impressive safety records, nuclear plants have the responsibility to ensure they are able to respond if plant safety is ever challenged.

Braidwood Station, as well as the other Exelon nuclear stations with support from the corporate offices, devotes extensive resources to planning and practicing our emergency response to both operational and security-related events.

The two basic steps in nuclear plant emergency preparedness are:

- First, do what it takes to keep the plant safe, and
- Second, determine what in advance to do if an event requires an emergency response

Teamwork in Action

Nuclear power plant emergency plans have a broad reach and at Braidwood, hundreds of the station's employees serve an important role in the Emergency Response Organization (ERO). This is a key element of the emergency plan.

More than 180 management people are part of the ERO. When you include the craft personnel from Operations, Maintenance, Radiation Protection and Chemistry, the number increases to close to 400 people.

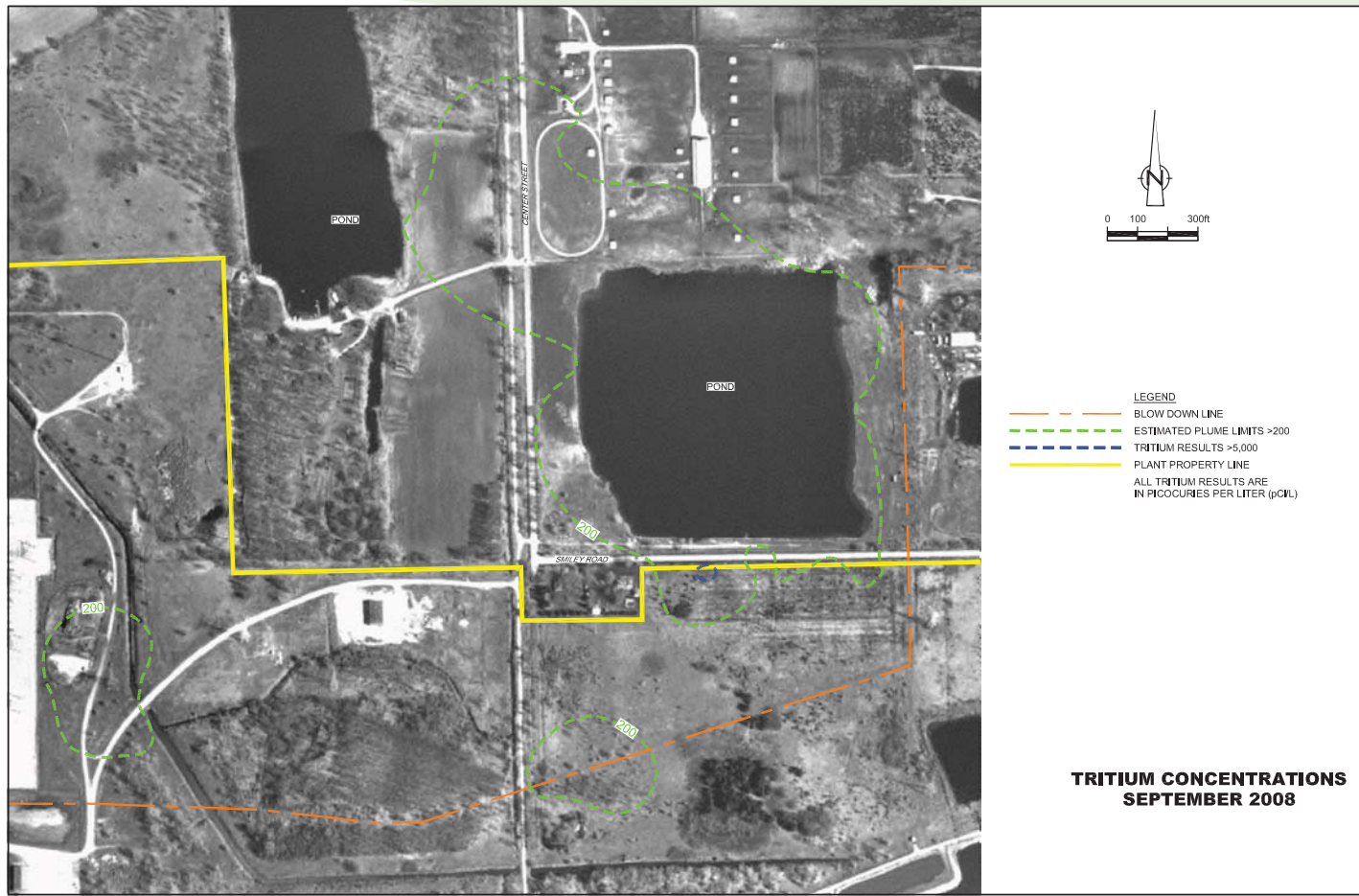
There is always a team on call — ready and able to respond, if necessary. In addition to the federally-required full-scale drill every two years involving federal, state and local officials, Braidwood conducts numerous training exercises throughout the year.

The last two-year exercise was satis-

See Emergency Response, Page 4

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The existing groundwater tritium plumes are highlighted in the chart above.

Exelon 2020: A Low-Carbon Roadmap

Exelon Nuclear plays an important role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions

Exelon Corp. recently unveiled a comprehensive environmental plan to reduce, offset or displace more than 15 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year by 2020. This ambitious plan is coined *Exelon 2020: A Low-Carbon Roadmap*.

The plan details an enterprise-wide approach and host of initiatives being perused by the Exelon family of companies to reduce Exelon's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and those of its customers, communities, suppliers and markets.

The Exelon 2020 plan will reduce, offset or displace more than the company's current annual carbon footprint and this is equivalent to taking nearly 3 million cars off American roads and highways.



Exelon Nuclear's fleet of generation facilitates already play a large role in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Nuclear energy plants emit virtually no greenhouse gas emissions in their operations. To that point, Exelon Nuclear's electricity generation prevents more than 120 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions yearly by eliminating the need for additional fossil fuel-based resources.

Exelon Nuclear will play an even larger role in achieving this low

carbon goal through further improvements in two key areas. First, Exelon Nuclear will improve electricity output from our nuclear fleet by examining uprates and other potential ways to increase generation. Secondly, we will undertake actions to improve energy efficiency in our buildings by 25 percent.

Our employees are participating in important recycling efforts. And we have adjusted the lighting and temperatures of our buildings, as only the beginning of our efforts.

Exelon 2020: A Lower-Carbon Roadmap will be fully recognized with all of our employees and communities efforts. The roadmap is available at www.exeloncorp.com.



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Braidwood Continues Outreach Giving to Community Groups

Providing the surrounding area with safe and affordable energy may be Braidwood Station's primary purpose, but the site also prides itself on enhancing the local community with a variety of environmental and philanthropic ventures.

One highlight of 2008 has been the ongoing improvements to the Braidwood Lake fishery – a \$16,000 project that began last year. Artificial habitat units were deployed in the lake for the second consecutive spring to provide largemouth bass with refuge from predator fish.

And in June, the Braidwood site donated water willow plants to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Site employees teamed with IDNR employees and local bass club members to plant the foliage, which allows the lake's aquatic life and insect population to flourish.

The yearly lake projects should provide optimal conditions for the annual fundraising event, Fishing for a Cure.

This year's record number of participants raised more than \$27,000 for the Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Network (FAAN). In its seven years, Fishing for a Cure has raised nearly \$110,000 for charity.

Braidwood participated in a pair of other large projects in the area. The site gave \$30,000 to the City of Braidwood to help with the moving of the historic Train Depot to a permanent site in town.

Braidwood Station also teamed



Ninety-two teams competed in the 2008 Fishing for a Cure event, which raised more than \$27,000 for charity.

with Dresden Station on a \$45,000 donation to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Will and Grundy counties to help with their renovation of a new facility in Joliet.

Another proud contribution during the first half of 2008 was Braidwood's donations to local fire departments. More than \$13,000 total was given to the Braidwood, Custer Park, Gardner and Mazon fire departments for various needs.

Monetary donations were also awarded to numerous other community organizations. The Braceville Community Action Team and the Gardner Beautification Committee received donations to help with summer programs. Money was also given to numerous sports leagues and high school scholarship funds.

The site closed 2008 by donating Christmas gifts to 225 children through the Salvation Army Angel Tree program.

Meet the Braidwood Team

Many of Braidwood Station's 800-plus employees live in the communities that border the plant. Among them is Dean Yarbrough, who has spent 23 years with Exelon. So let's meet Dean:

Q: How did you get your start at Braidwood Station?

A: I was hired on with ComEd at Braidwood Station in 1985 as an Equipment Operator. I held several positions within the Operations Department over the last 23 years including my current role as a Shift Manger. I previously held a Reactor Operator License from the NRC, and I currently hold a Senior Reactor Operator license.



Dean Yarbrough

Q: Do you live close to the plant?

A: I originally grew up in the Joliet area and belonged to the Braidwood Recreation Club with my family since 1975. I have lived in the Custer Park area for most of the last 20 years.

Q: What do you do?

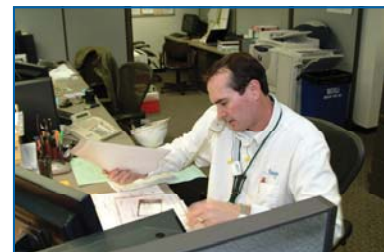
A: As a Shift Manager, I have the overall responsibility and command for the safe operation of Braidwood during my shift.

Q: Do you have continuous training exercises?

A: My team and I spend every sixth week in training, either working on simulated exercises or attending classroom training.

Q: Can you tell us a bit about your family?

A: I have two children that have both graduated from Reed Custer High School. My wife is currently a Reed Custer School Board member.



Just the Facts

Nuclear energy plants help mitigate climate change because they don't produce greenhouse gases while generating electricity. Why? Because nuclear plants don't burn anything, so they produce no combustion byproducts. Coupled with renewable energy options, nuclear energy is critical to meeting the country's environmental and energy goals.

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Braidwood Generating Station

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Remediation, from Page 1

valves from an underground pipe that, as part of normal plant operations, is used to carry water containing diluted tritium produced in the plant to the Kankakee River for discharge under federal standards.

Remediation, which began in the summer of 2006, involves pumping down a pond adjacent to the plant. As the pond level lowers, the groundwater adjacent to the pond, which has tritium in it, flows toward the pond. While that happens, Exelon pumps water from the pond to keep it at the lowered level. The water pumped out of the pond goes into the existing blowdown line.

It has been an effective process in removing tritiated groundwater. The graph on Page 2 illustrates the tritium plumes. The concentrations in these plumes have been reduced considerably.

All monitoring wells show tritium levels well below the federal standard (20,000 picocuries per liter). The concentrations of tritium in wells do not pose a health or safety hazard to the public.

As a comparison, if a person drinks two liters of water a day for a year with tritium at 20,000 pCi/l, that person would receive the equivalent radiological exposure as a person taking a single cross-country airplane flight.

Braidwood personnel will continue remediation and communicate pertinent information to those near the station.

Emergency Response, from Page 1

factorily completed at Braidwood on November 19, 2008.

Federal law requires each U.S. nuclear power plant to establish and maintain an emergency plan, as well as regularly practice the plan to ensure the plant is capable of protecting the public and plant workers in the unlikely event of an accident at the facility.

In addition, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), state and local governments and emergency response officials, including fire departments and law enforcement, are included in the company's plan and participate in periodic drills to demonstrate the plan's viability.

Along with the State of Illinois, the exercise conducted at Braidwood on Nov. 19, 2008 included participation from personnel from Exelon, the NRC, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Will County, Grundy County and Kankakee County.

Ongoing communications combined with regular drills and exercises ensure that plant personnel and the community's emergency response organizations work seamlessly together. In this regard, Exelon and the State of Illinois are unique in that Exelon has six nuclear power facilities in the state.

As each station must conduct a full-scale drill every two years, state and county personnel have frequent participation with the nuclear stations.

Exelon's employees are committed to safety - the safety of their families, friends, neighbors, co-workers and you.

Their participation in the ERO and support of the emergency preparedness plan reflects this commitment each and every day. Through the combination of continual training and frequent testing, the entire nuclear industry's commitment to excellence has produced an unparalleled level of emergency preparedness within America's industrial sector.

Hostile-Action-Based Drills

As a result of the events of September 11, 2001, significant changes have been implemented at the nation's nuclear power plants. If you travel past any of Exelon's nuclear plants, you have more than likely seen some of the physical changes. Prior to 9/11, Braidwood Station's emergency plan dealt completely with ra-

As each station must conduct a full-scale drill every two years, state and county personnel have frequent participation with the nuclear stations.

diological events. Changes have been made to this plant to include security-related events.

The NRC asked the industry to voluntarily conduct hostile-action-based drills over a three-year period. The nuclear industry complied with the request of the NRC and established a schedule for each of the 104 nuclear plants across the country. During the voluntary period, these hostile-action-based drills are not graded. They are used to gain insights to improve overall performance and to provide the industry and the NRC the necessary data for future regulatory activities. Braidwood completed its hostile-action-based drill in June 2007.

The Nuclear Energy Institute is working with the NRC on what future hostile-action-based drills will look like and how they will be implemented into the two-year full-scale drill.