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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Exelon to Host Community Information Night To Discuss Plans to Remove Tritium From Groundwater

BRACEVILLE, Ill. (March 29, 2006) Exelon Corp. today announced that it will host a Community Information Night on April 6 to inform residents of a recently completed plan to remove tritium from groundwater near the Braidwood Generating Station. Depending on when a construction permit is issued, Exelon could begin the clean-up plan in the next two to three weeks.

Exelon developed the plan with state and local officials, and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Illinois Attorney General's Office are now reviewing the plan. The Will County State's Attorney's Office is reviewing the permit application necessary to begin the work.

"We recognize this is a very important step for our neighbors in Braidwood," said Christopher Crane, president and chief nuclear officer for Exelon Nuclear. "With this broad agreement on the remediation plan, we are pleased to move ahead and live up to our commitment to remove the tritium from the groundwater outside the plant."

The information night will be from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, April 6, at Exelon's Training Center, 36400 S. Essex Road, in Wilmington. After the work begins, the program could take 12 months or longer to complete.

The plan calls for environmental technicians to pump about seven feet of water out of a pond adjacent to plant property near the center of the contaminated area. The reduction in the water level, or about half of the pond's depth at its deepest point, will allow groundwater adjacent to the pond to flow toward the pond. Pumping will continue to maintain a water level in the pond that maximizes, to the extent possible, the flow of tritiated water into the pond.

In November, an environmental monitoring program found groundwater contaminated with tritium at the Braidwood station. Since November, Exelon has completed extensive testing to determine the extent of the contamination. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and independent experts hired by Exelon agree the tritium in the groundwater is not impacting human health or safety. In addition, private well test results were provided to the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the agency determined that the tritium levels pose no health or safety hazard to the public.

Only one private drinking well near the Braidwood station was found to have a level of tritium above detectable levels, and that amount was well within federal safe drinking water standards.

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Some areas of groundwater near the Braidwood station were contaminated by tritium that spilled from a leak in a discharge pipe carrying tritium and other effluent from the plant to the Kankakee River, where it is discharged under strict federal guidelines. Tritiated water that is pumped out of the pond will be sent down the discharge pipe, or blowdown pipe, to the Kankakee River.

In November, Exelon stopped placing water with tritium into the pipe. Since then, outside experts were hired to fully inspect the pipe and ensure there are no breaks or leaks. Each of the vacuum breaker valves has been recently inspected to ensure the proper sealing of its internal components, which will prevent leakage.

Only very low concentrations of tritium will be put through the pipe. Tritium from the pond will quickly dilute to less than the level of detectability, which is about 200 picocuries of tritium per liter of water. By way of comparison, the U.S. EPA has said that water containing up to 20,000 picocuries of tritium per liter is safe to drink.

In addition, Exelon has taken a number of steps to ensure the reliability of the blowdown pipe, including enhanced monitoring and maintenance of the system. For instance, Exelon is adding monitoring features that will immediately alert operators if there is any leakage from the vacuum breaker valves. If that occurs, Exelon will immediately stop the discharge of water with tritium into the pipe, until the leak is fixed. Moreover, Exelon will continue weekly samples of selected monitoring wells.

“We are confident that the steps we have taken, from releasing a very small concentration of tritium to enhancing the way we monitor the system, will successfully remove the tritiated groundwater and, at the same time, ensure the health and safety of our neighbors,” said Keith Polson, Braidwood site vice president.

For more information, please visit www.braidwoodtritium.info or call the hotline, 815-458-7000. In addition, a repository of all information related to this issue is available at the Fossil Ridge Library, 386 W. Kennedy Road, Braidwood.

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