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Preliminary Environmental Assessment Results at Exelon Nuclear Plants Show No Tritium Leaks, Weak Levels Contained on Sites

WARRENVILLE, Ill. (July 31, 2006) – Preliminary results of an environmental study of tritium at 11 Exelon Nuclear stations show no active leaks of tritium at any of the generating plants and no detectable tritium beyond the plant boundaries other than from permitted discharges, except for known historical releases at the Braidwood Generating Station in Illinois.

The study is continuing and final results are expected in six to eight weeks. Additional wells are being installed for long-term monitoring programs across the company and to gather additional data, in particular from two stations that have unusually complex hydrogeology requiring a more extensive array of wells. Those two stations are the Dresden Generating Station in Illinois and Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania.

None of the tritium concentrations registered in the Exelon Nuclear assessment pose a health or safety hazard to workers or the public.

The only station at which tritium is known to have migrated off plant property is the Braidwood Generating Station in Illinois, where past accidental tritiated water spills have been widely reported and a state-approved cleanup has begun.

Exelon's 11 nuclear energy plants include six operating plants and one closed plant in Illinois, three operating plants in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey.

The assessment also determined that:

- No radioactive substances other than tritium and those that occur naturally – such as potassium-40 – were detected above background levels in any of the more than 1,800 ground water samples taken to assess tritium at the stations.
- Low but detectable levels of tritium exist in groundwater within site boundaries of most Exelon plants. All either measured near background levels or were from past leaks or spills and show no signs of moving offsite. These will be monitored continuously. None pose a hazard.
- One plant, the Oyster Creek Generating Station in New Jersey, showed no traces of tritium in the environment.

Each water sample gathered for testing is analyzed by independent laboratories to ensure accurate and confirmable results. Many samples are split among state and federal regulatory agencies for further assurance.

Tritium is a weak radioactive isotope of hydrogen found naturally in virtually all water in small concentrations and produced in higher concentrations in water used in nuclear energy plants. Tritium is a normal byproduct of commercial nuclear power production and is discharged into the environment under strict federal guidelines. Eventually, all tritium decays into helium, a natural part of the earth's atmosphere.

The assessment, announced by the company on Feb. 15, is the largest environmental tritium study involving nuclear energy stations ever undertaken in the U.S. The nuclear industry announced a similar voluntary program for all commercial U.S. nuclear sites on May 9.

In Exelon's assessment, more than 400 employees, contractors and consultants – including hydro-geologists, engineers, chemists, environmental scientists and other specialists – so far have spent five months systematically evaluating the integrity of mechanical systems that handle tritium and other radioactive substances at all locations. They have studied historical records of plant operations to determine if past leaks or spills may have occurred, drilled more than 500 test and monitoring wells in the ground and analyzed test results from more than 1,800 water samples (including drilling and testing in connection with the remediation work at Braidwood).

If needed, cleanup plans will be developed in conjunction with government oversight agencies. The company-wide assessment is expected to cost more than \$5 million, not including environmental remediation-related work under way at Braidwood.

“We said when we launched this project that we owe it to our neighbors to ensure the environmental integrity of our plants,” said Exelon's Chief Nuclear Officer Chris Crane. “Any unintended release of a radioactive substance from our plants is unacceptable. We are issuing this progress report to demonstrate that we have approached this the right way and that the results are good.”

Specific results for the 11 locations will be released at completion of the project.

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Exelon Corporation is one of the nation's largest electric utilities with approximately 5.2 million customers and more than \$15 billion in annual revenues. The company has one of the industry's largest portfolios of electricity generation capacity, with a nationwide reach and strong positions in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic. Exelon distributes electricity to approximately 5.2 million customers in northern Illinois and Pennsylvania and natural gas to more than 470,000 customers in southeastern Pennsylvania. Exelon is headquartered in Chicago and trades on the NYSE under the ticker EXC.