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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Update: Tritium Remediation Efforts Progressing Well;
Information Night Set for March 22**

BRACEVILLE, Ill. (March 8, 2007) - The highest concentration of tritium in groundwater near the Braidwood Nuclear Generating Station has been reduced by 87 percent since remediation work began in June 2006, environmental engineers working for Exelon Nuclear reported this week.

That area, which straddled the fence line on the power station's northeast edge, was the location of the 1998 spill of tritiated water that infiltrated shallow groundwater in an area about 2,000 feet across. The highest concentration in a well in this area showed 230,000 picocuries per liter in December 2005. As of mid-January 2007, the concentration has decreased 87 percent to 29,146 picocuries per liter. More than 110 million gallons of groundwater containing low concentrations of tritium have been pumped from this area.

Also:

- The main plume where tritium was detected above 200 picocuries per liter in groundwater (around the pond just north of and south of Smiley Road) has remained approximately the same size overall since remediation began, but has changed shape slightly due to groundwater movement. Tritium concentrations dropped by more than 66 percent at the southern edge of the plume.
- Based upon routine monitoring of the plume, hydrologists have determined that the plume migrated to the northwest between the time wells were originally tested in January 2006 and the time when the first impacts of remediation pumping were observed in August 2006. A January 2007 sample from a well about 150 feet north of the previous northwest edge of the plume showed levels of tritium of approximately 300 picocuries per liter, slightly above the lower limit of detection. Hydrologists have confirmed that the flow of groundwater in this area has reversed, which indicates the tritium in this area will be drawn back towards the pond on Exelon property as remediation continues. A map showing the change in the shape of the plume can be viewed at www.braidwoodtritium.com.
- The Braidwood station will conduct its 7th information night on Thursday, March 22. This will include an update on the remediation process and other aspects of the Braidwood Tritium Project. The information night will be from 4 to 7 p.m. at Exelon's Services and Training Center, 36400 S. Essex Road, Wilmington, Ill.
- Recycling of tritium produced during plant operations continues and has resulted in a decrease of the quantity of tritium discharged through the station "blowdown" line.

“We have done significant monitoring and testing to ensure we know the area of the plume,” said Braidwood Generating Station Site Vice President Tom Coutu. “The current remediation process is working. We have confirmation that we are reducing the concentration of tritium in the groundwater and pulling back the edges of the plume in most areas. We will continue to monitor to ensure this is the case.”

The tritium in the groundwater is not affecting any private wells and poses no health or safety threat to the public. The U.S. EPA’s drinking water limit for tritium is 20,000 picocuries per liter.

Tritium is an isotope of hydrogen that produces a weak level of radiation. It is produced naturally in the upper atmosphere when cosmic rays strike atmospheric gases and is produced in larger quantities as a by-product of the nuclear energy industry. When combined with oxygen, tritium has the same chemical properties as water. Tritium can be found at very low levels in nearly all water sources.

Tritium is measured based on how much is in a given liter of water, expressed in “picocuries per liter” of water (a picocurie is one trillionth of a curie).

The remediation process involves pumping down a pond (owned by Exelon) adjacent to the plant. As the pond level lowers, the groundwater adjacent to the pond, which contains tritium, flows toward the pond. The water pumped out of the pond goes into the existing underground pipe or blowdown line and is then discharged into the Kankakee River pursuant to federal and Illinois EPA permits.

Hydrologists have confirmed that concentrations of groundwater tritium are decreasing and expect to see further results in the future as the size of the area with elevated tritium levels shrinks.

Maps, fact sheets and other important documents are available at <http://www.braidwoodtritium.info>.

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