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Thursday News Reports Inaccurate; Tritium Remediation Efforts Have Not Affected Forest Preserve Lands

BRACEVILLE, Ill. (April 6, 2007) – Reports Thursday that tritium remediation work at Braidwood Nuclear Generating Station has negatively affected the Will County Forest Preserve are inaccurate and contrary to extensive environmental data, the company said today.

The reports, carried in newspapers and broadcast by radio news Thursday and Friday, contained assertions by forest preserve officials that remediation efforts at the Braidwood plant were causing water tables to drop on the preserve or otherwise impacting preserve wetlands. The claims were attributed to Will County Forest Preserve District’s Executive Director Mike Pasteris, who offered no evidence to support them.

To the contrary, extensive scientific data derived from environmental monitoring on and near forest district property clearly demonstrates that remediation efforts – which consist of pumping of a pond on Exelon property – have had no negative impact on forest preserve land or wetlands.

“The forest preserve’s statements are not true,” said Tom O’Neill, Exelon Vice President Licensing and Regulatory Affairs.

In November 2005, low levels of tritium were found in a small isolated area about 200 feet inside the southern edge of Forest Preserve property. The levels found pose no threat to plant or animal life or to humans. Since that discovery, Exelon has worked extensively to understand Forest Preserve officials concerns, meeting with them on six occasions during the past nine months. Exelon has provided the district with detailed data showing that the station’s remediation efforts have had no negative impact to the wetlands.

The company last September offered to fund an ecological monitoring program to measure changes in plant life in several sensitive areas to further ease any concerns, and in February 2007 presented an alternative remediation method to the district that would further reduce the risk of any negative impact on the wetlands. Forest preserve officials never responded to either proposal.

“Our goal is to remediate the tritium, and we are doing that with no negative impact on the preserve,” O’Neill said.

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