

Monday Winds Cause Tank Yard Leak At Braidwood Generating Station

A small amount of tritiated water held in a temporary tank yard at Braidwood Generating Station escaped from its contained area on Monday afternoon. Employees quickly cleaned up the water and returned it to the contained area.

BRACEVILLE, Ill. (March 14, 2006) –A small amount of tritiated water held in a temporary tank yard at Braidwood Generating Station escaped from its contained area on Monday afternoon. Employees quickly cleaned up the water and returned it to the contained area.

Heavy winds apparently caused part of the berm's wall to partially collapse, allowing about 200 gallons of tritiated water to escape and puddle outside the berm. Employees discovered the puddles during a routine inspection of the area about two hours later.

Exelon Nuclear is making this information available in the interest of ongoing, full disclosure of tritium-related activities at the site. The amount of tritium involved is substantially below any thresholds of reportability to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"We are confident that we have contained the small amount of water with tritium," said Keith Polson, site vice president at Braidwood Generating Station.

The lined berm surrounds a concrete pad that holds storage tanks containing tritiated water produced as a by-product of power generation. The structure is designed so tritiated water in the contained area cannot enter the ground. The tanks are continuously checked and tested to ensure they are working properly.

Initial sample results of the pooled water just outside the berm showed a reading of approximately 183,000 picocuries per liter. No water with tritium migrated off site property.

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