

Community Relations Plan

Braidwood Generating Station Tritium Issues

August 5, 2009

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

Introduction

Exelon Nuclear originally submitted this Community Relations Plan because of a violation notice related to unlicensed releases of tritium into the groundwater at the Braidwood Generating Station. Exelon has been in communication with potentially affected residents, regulators, officials from all levels of government and other stakeholders regarding the releases to groundwater since late 2005. This Community Relations Plan describes both community relations activities that have occurred so far and ones that are planned to respond to future public needs.

Summary of Plan

The following summarizes the key elements of the Community Relations Plan (CRP) that Exelon has prepared for the Braidwood Generating Station.

The plan covers the following areas:

- Overview of the past situation and facility
- Objectives to keep all stakeholders informed of any unlicensed release of radionuclides, identify and address community concerns and update about progress toward resolution
- Action plan, including specific tasks, materials and schedule required to achieve the objectives

Overview

Braidwood Generating Station is an Exelon-owned nuclear facility that uses a pressurized water reactor of Westinghouse design to generate electricity. There are two units at the site. The first unit went on-line July 29, 1988, and the second went on-line October 17, 1988.

The Braidwood facility sits on a 4,450-acre property, including a 2,537-acre cooling lake, in Reed Township, unincorporated Will County, about 60 miles southwest of Chicago. The facility is located near the villages of Braidwood and Godley. The closest residents are north of the plant in unincorporated Will County and in the villages of Braceville and Godley. These communities make use of well water.

Because of apparent failures of valves connected to a piping system that carries tritiated water to a designated discharge site, flooding along the system occurred between 1996 and 2003. In 2005, it was determined that tritium had entered the groundwater supply, likely as a result of the valve failures (see Attachment 1a, Blowdown Pipe Map; Attachment 1b, Groundwater Map; Attachment 1c, Vacuum Breaker 4 Map; Attachment 1d, Vacuum Breakers 6 and 7 Map).

Very high concentrations of tritium, a by-product of the nuclear process to generate electricity, have the potential to impact the health and safety of humans. At the time of the revision of this plan, nearly 400 private wells north of the plant and along the discharge “blowdown” line and in the village of Godley have been tested for tritium contamination. Only three of the nearly 400 wells tested showed tritium above detectable limits. Each of the three wells showed tritium at only a fraction of the U.S. EPA’s safe level for public drinking water and pose no health or safety hazard.

Exelon has made significant progress since remediation began in June 2006. Hydrologists have confirmed that the remediation is having the intended effect of capturing the flow of groundwater and reversing outward flow back into the pond.

The highest concentration of tritium in the groundwater has been reduced by more than 97 percent as of September 2008. Water taken from a test well located north of Smiley Road on the southeast edge of the pond showed 230,000 pCi/l in December 2005. As of September 2008, the concentration has decreased by more than 97 percent to 6,250 pCi/l, providing further evidence that the clean-up plan is working effectively.

Since the tritium has come to light, Exelon has made numerous communications with residents, public officials and general public about this issue (see Attachment 2, Communications Timeline).

Objectives

The purpose of the plan is to (1) identify community concerns; (2) ensure that the correct stakeholders are notified in accordance with the station’s reportability requirements set forth by the IEPA (see Attachment 5); (3) inform stakeholders of actions to remedy any release reported under the IEPA requirements (see Attachment 5); and (4) educate stakeholders regarding tritium, radiation and groundwater.

Pursuant to the guidelines from the Illinois Pollution Control Board, the following groups of stakeholders have been identified:

- **Owners or occupants of homes who are in close proximity of the plume of groundwater (See attachment 1b of Community Relations Plan – groundwater map)**
- **State and federal elected representatives, public officials of Will County and neighboring municipalities**
- **Citizens, identified groups, organizations or businesses within 1,000 feet of the releases (See attachment 1b of Community Relations Plan – groundwater map)**

Action Plan

The following section discusses the actions that must be taken and materials that must be created to fulfill the stated objectives. The primary means of communication to the public has been and will continue to be via (1) news releases, (2) Community Information Nights, (3) resident meetings, (4) the Web site and hard copy repository, (5) letters to residents and (6) the fact sheet about tritium.

The areas to be discussed include:

- Identification of stakeholders, both residents and public officials
- Identify community concerns
- Analysis of outreach methods to stakeholders
- Outreach methods/Fact sheet repository
- Materials
- Other outreach/Future plans

Identification of resident stakeholders

To identify affected homeowners near the Braidwood site, Exelon overlaid the maps of the plume of water containing tritium with plats of the region showing property owners and residences. In this case, the affected and potentially affected parties are residents who are on well systems near the Braidwood facility. For privacy reasons, the list is not included in this plan. But residents who want to be added to this mailing list should contact Exelon. Exelon will continue to use this method to identify impacted or potentially impacted residents.

Identify community concerns

Exelon remains committed to concerns brought forth by local residents: (1) Braidwood Station has hosted more than a dozen Community Information Nights where residents can learn about nuclear power and ask questions about the station; (2) Resident concerns are addressed in the Braidwood Generating Station Groundwater Fact Sheet (see Attachment 4); (3) The Braidwood tritium Web site (www.braidwoodtritium.info) contains information and maps, and also gives a phone number and e-mail address where residents can voice concerns and collect information. Information contained in these forums may change as we continue to remediate the groundwater and also address any new public concerns.

Analysis of outreach methods for area residents

The most recent U.S. Census data for Reed Township, which includes this group of residents, shows that more than 70 percent of the adult population has either a high school diploma or some college. In addition, a small percentage, 0.3 percent, of the population in Reed Township “speaks English less than very well.”

Based on interactions with the group by Exelon representatives, representatives have concluded there is no language barrier to communicate in English with area

residents. Exelon will continue to communicate with residents via news releases, face-to-face discussions, phone calls and by posting information on its Web site.

Public officials and non-resident stakeholders

The residences are all in unincorporated Will County, and so the Will County Board is the public body with direct oversight for land-use and health regulations for this region. In addition, Exelon has added as stakeholders public officials of four nearby municipalities: the villages of Braidwood, Wilmington, Godley and Braceville (see Attachment 3, List of Public Officials).

Outreach Methods/Fact Sheet Repository

The outreach methods for this group are face-to-face meetings, written letters, a Web site, advertising, news releases and a hard copy repository. Exelon strives to inform residents and public officials at the same time that the media are notified about updates. Those communications are usually phone calls or face-to-face meetings.

In addition, everyone is encouraged to check often with the Web site for the community. This Web site, which was established for the tritium issue, includes the relevant fact sheets about health risks and remediation efforts. The Web address, which includes a place for comment from residents or concerned citizens or stakeholders, is www.braidwoodtritium.info.

A hardcopy repository was established in late March 2006 at the Fossil Ridge Library in Braidwood, Ill. The repository includes news releases, fact sheets, a copy of the Notices of Violation, flyers, maps, final technical reports and information packages developed for specific communication events with stakeholders.

Materials

The issue being discussed is a complicated one, and so prepared materials discussing tritium are vital to ensure residents are correctly informed. To meet that end, a fact sheet discussing tritium and its potential to impact human health and safety was prepared and submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for review (see Attachment 4, Fact Sheet About Tritium). Exelon will submit to the Illinois EPA for review three business days before publication materials for Web site and fact sheets.

In addition, Exelon uses news releases to communicate important news to the broader audiences about updates to the situation. Exelon will submit to the Illinois EPA for review three business days before publication draft news releases about any site-related radionuclide spills or releases to the environment (situations of an immediate nature may entail a quicker review by phone consultation).

The news releases include the name and phone number of the Exelon representative residents or other stakeholders should contact for more information. This person is on-site or near the site, allowing for greater face-to-face interaction when necessary.

Other outreach

Additional communications included resident meetings, which were held on December 12, 2005 and January 26, 2006. Community Information Nights have been held at least quarterly since the start of 2006. Other ongoing forms of communication have included face-to-face dialogues, phone conversations, e-mails, presentations and other meetings with residents, civic organizations, local officials, regulatory agencies and other stakeholders.

At the Community Information Nights, residents and public officials were personally invited to interact face-to-face with subject matter experts from Exelon and state and federal agencies. For instance, employees and contractors who are tracking the movement of tritiated water in the groundwater established a booth with maps of the geology of the region. Other experts discussed leakage from the blowdown pipe and proposals to fix the problem. In addition, at the April 6, 2006 meeting, the proposed interim remediation plan was discussed. Exelon Generation shall hold Community Information Nights quarterly – or as deemed necessary in consultation with the Illinois EPA. Exelon Generation shall discuss the agenda for the meeting(s) with the Illinois EPA.

Future plans

As the process to resolve the notice of violation continues, Exelon will continue to notify stakeholders of relevant information in the timeliest manner possible. In addition, Exelon will continue to pursue methods that solicit feedback, such as face-to-face meetings and phone calls, from affected residents and public officials.

In addition, Exelon will maintain both the Web site and repository at least six months following resolution of the groundwater contamination issue.

Throughout this process, Exelon will continue to ensure that residents are informed immediately of any situation that might impact their health or safety. In addition, as the remediation process continues, Exelon will ensure that all of the stakeholders and broader public understand clearly this process.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1a, Blowdown Pipe Map

Attachment 1b, Tritium Plume Map

Attachment 1c, Vacuum Breaker 4 Map

Attachment 1d, Vacuum Breakers 6 and 7 Map

Attachment 2, Communications Timeline

Attachment 3, List of Public Officials

Attachment 4, Braidwood Generating Station Groundwater Fact Sheet

Attachment 5, Procedures for Reporting Releases of Radionuclides at Nuclear Power Plants

Exelon Contact for any questions or concerns about Braidwood Station operations:
Paul Dempsey, Exelon Nuclear
815-417-3184