

COMMUNITYupdate

News for Braidwood Station's Neighbors

Winter 2011

Record Catch! Fishing Event Raises \$41,000 for Wounded Heroes Foundation

In its 10-year history, Exelon Nuclear's "Fishing for a Cure" has raised nearly \$200,000 for charity

On Saturday, May 21, in a fitting celebration of Armed Services Day, Exelon Nuclear's "Fishing for a Cure" tournament raised a record \$41,000 for the Wounded Heroes Foundation.

"Exelon delivered 'off the charts' results," said Wounded Heroes Foundation Director John Bolack. "The foundation and I are overwhelmed, overjoyed and grateful to the entire Exelon family. This is the single largest donation we have ever received. It will have a direct and enormously positive impact on more than 25 severely injured heroes and their families."

A record-tying 100 two-person teams were entered in the 10th annual tournament. Brothers Jerry (Lansing, Ill.) and John (Manhattan, Ill.) Luehrs took home first place and the \$4,000 top prize. Their five-fish total of 14.38 pounds was best in the tournament field. The duo also snared the biggest bass of the tournament (3.84 lbs.).

Also part of this year's event was a children's fishing derby held at the Godley Park District pond. Seventy youngsters participated in the tournament.

"Our employees at Braidwood Station and Exelon Corporation as a whole are proud to be able to help a wonderful charity like the Wounded Heroes Foundation," said Braidwood Site Vice President Dan Enright.



Anglers await the start of the 10th annual "Fishing for a Cure" tournament.



Braidwood Station's Layers Upon Layers of Safety

As a resident who lives near the Braidwood Generating Station, you have a right to know about all the systems and procedures that are in place to ensure the safe and reliable operations of our facility.

Braidwood Station has redundant safety systems and backup to the backups for ensuring the station, its employees and the surrounding community are safe.

The following are some of the facts about the facility's procedures and structures that make it more secure for withstanding natural disasters that may occur in the area.

Emergency Plans

- Braidwood has extensive emergency procedures to respond to emergency conditions in order to protect the health and safety of the public and its employees during emergency events.
- Plant operators, maintenance personnel, engineers, and the emergency planning workforce verify their qualifications on a daily basis.
- Braidwood and all U.S. nuclear facilities have in place "Severe Accident Mitigation Guidelines" that prescribe actions and require pre-staged equipment

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"...becoming the best operator of nuclear plants worldwide"

Did You Know: *Nuclear Fuel is Ceramic; Not Liquid*

U.S. nuclear power facilities are powered by uranium fuel pellets. One uranium fuel pellet (which measures about 2 inches long and half an inch wide) has about as much energy as:

- Three 42-gallon barrels of oil
- One ton of coal
- 17,000 cubic feet of natural gas

Uranium fuel pellets in nuclear reactors undergo nuclear fission to provide heat (energy) that turns water to steam. Steam turbines power generators, which produces electricity.



Nuclear fuel: uranium pellets

Learn More About Nuclear Energy

Do you want to learn more about the future of nuclear energy? Do you wonder about how nuclear energy compares to fossil fuels?

Braidwood's Speaker's Bureau ambassadors are able to speak about a number of topics including:

- Safety
- Nuclear operations
- Environmental benefits
- Used fuel storage
- Security

Whether you are a school, church group or civic organization, our ambassadors will tailor each presentation to your group's interests and generate discussion among your group.

if you're interested in a presentation, please contact Neal Miller at (815) 417-3184 or via email at Neal.Miller@exeloncorp.com.

Message From Braidwood Site Vice President Dan Enright

Dear Neighbors,

On behalf of Exelon Nuclear and the employees of Braidwood Station, I am pleased to provide this publication in an effort to make you aware of our activities and initiatives that may be of interest to you.

Braidwood is a well run facility, supported by more than 850 professionals. Our highest priority as always — is protecting the health and safety of the public and our employees.

But beyond that, we strive to be good neighbors and good corporate citizens.

Braidwood Station and its employees actively support a variety of area nonprofit organizations, including the United Way, the Braidwood Community Care food pantry, Reed Custer High School's Braidwood Shootout, Braidwood SummerFest, Wilmington Catfish Days, Godley Park District's Haunted Barn and of course our annual "Fishing for a Cure" benefitting charity.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative. If you have any comments or suggestions for future publications, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Dan Enright
Braidwood Station Vice President



Dan Enright
Site Vice President

Braidwood Installs Phone Notification System

Exelon Nuclear's Braidwood Generating Station installed a new automated notification system that will allow the facility to automatically call residential phones in the Braidwood and Godley areas should the need arise.

The system was installed based on feedback Braidwood Station officials received from residents following a steam release that occurred last summer.

"During the time of the steam release we attempted to keep the public informed through interface with local authorities and officials and through email updates and news releases," said Dan Enright, Braidwood Generating Station site vice president.

"Feedback from residents following the event told us that this communication wasn't as effective as it could have been and that they would prefer to be notified in a more expeditious manner, even if it was in the middle of the night."

The new phone notification will provide information as close to real time as possible and could occur at any hour day or night.

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Facts About Safety and Emergency Planning

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(portable diesel generators and portable power packs) beyond normal emergency operating procedures to address severe challenges to the reactor core.

- Station emergency drills are overseen by independent experts, including the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with participation of state and local emergency agencies, such as the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.
- Braidwood conducts multiple emergency drills each year, and conducts an NRC graded drill every two years.

Earthquakes

- Exelon's facilities are engineered to withstand earthquakes far above any historical earthquake risk data for the area.
- Braidwood safety systems and components are protected in reinforced concrete structures, allowing them to remain functional in earthquakes, tornados, floods or an accident internal to the plant.
- Among protected systems are those that provide emergency cooling water to the reactor and used fuel pools, emergency diesel generators, and diesel fuel tanks.



An emergency diesel generator

Floods

- Braidwood is designed to remain in a safe condition even in significant floods.
- Braidwood emergency equipment is protected from water incursion;

including water tight doors, which serve safety related cooling systems and the emergency diesel generator.

- Braidwood is situated about 600 feet above sea level. The nearest body of water, the Kankakee River, is 4.5 miles from the plant and runs about 570 feet above sea level. The highest recorded flood in this area was 586.3 feet above sea level in 1883 and 1887.

Power Loss

- The facility's electricity comes from a switchyard that is connected to the grid by six transmission lines.
- Should all offsite power sources fail, four locomotive-sized emergency diesel generators and four independent battery banks ensure continued electricity for safe shutdown and safe cooling of the facility.
- The four emergency diesel generators are housed in separate rooms within a reinforced concrete structure. They start automatically when offsite power is lost and can run continuously for months if needed.
- The generators are fueled by three underground diesel fuel tanks with a total capacity of 44,000 gallons of diesel fuel, a seven-day supply on site at all times. Pipes and pumps run underground to the diesel generators. The station has plans for replenishing diesel fuel

supplies in a natural disaster that causes an extended power loss.

- Braidwood has four banks of large emergency batteries in four locations within the plant. Each set of banks can provide emergency backup power for about eight hours should all diesel generators become unavailable.
- The emergency diesel generators are tested monthly.

Batteries are inspected weekly.

Hydrogen Build Up

- Braidwood Station has systems and strategies that minimize hydrogen buildup inside the plant.
- These systems and strategies include venting containment via the containment purge system.

Water Resources

- Braidwood has ten independent methods of putting water into the reactor, if needed.
- Braidwood has five independent methods of putting water into the used fuel pool, if needed.
- The capacity of the used fuel pool is approximately 500,000 gallons of water. Primary water for the pool is maintained in two tanks, with a total capacity of 240,000 gallons.
- The two refueling water storage tanks also provide a backup source of water with a total capacity of 900,000 gallons.

Industry and Exelon Response to Japan Events

In response to the Japan event, the nuclear industry took immediate steps

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Battery back-up banks

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Braidwood Generating Station

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If you have questions or would like to be added to our community email list, please contact Braidwood Communications.

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Facts About Safety and Emergency Planning

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to ensure that nuclear facilities in the U.S. were secure. U.S. nuclear energy facilities, including Exelon:

- Verified that all critical safety components, procedures and staffing are in place and functioning to mitigate potential damage from extreme events
- Completed inspections of systems that protect nuclear energy facilities against extreme events
- Are taking steps to ensure that used fuel storage pools are protected at all times, including the potential for adding backup sources of cooling water
- Are looking at additional monitors for cooling water level above the used fuel
- Continue to assess effectiveness of reactor operator training
- Are assessing their facility's ability to cool fuel in the reactor, maintain containment integrity and cool used reactor fuel even if a facility loses all AC power
- Are improving operator guidelines and training for emergency response personnel for managing severe events

- Are evaluating the use of equipment and supplies located at regional facilities to provide a rapid emergency response capability for extreme events

In addition, the NRC, the independent regulatory watchdog for the industry, performed a separate assessment of U.S. nuclear energy facilities and concluded that U.S. plants are safe and the continued operation and continued licensing activities do not pose an imminent risk to public health and safety. The NRC staff made 34 recommendations to review safety, preparedness and NRC staff proposed six near-term actions. You can view the full report at: <http://www.nrc.gov/japan/japan-info.html>

More Information Available

For more information about Braidwood Station, please contact Site Communication Manager Neal Miller at (815) 417-3184 or at: Neal.Miller@exeloncorp.com. Additional information can be found at: www.exeloncorp.com.