

December 2, 2002

Mr. John L. Skolds, President  
Exelon Nuclear  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

SUBJECT: BRAIDWOOD STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2 - RESPONSE TO NRC BULLETIN 2002-02, "REACTOR PRESSURE VESSEL HEAD AND VESSEL HEAD PENETRATION NOZZLE INSPECTION PROGRAMS" (TAC NOS. MB5874 AND MB5875)

Dear Mr. Skolds:

On August 9, 2002, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) issued Bulletin 2002-02, "Reactor Pressure Vessel Head and Vessel Head Penetration Nozzle Inspection Programs." The Bulletin requested addressees to provide information related to their reactor pressure vessel (RPV) head and vessel head penetration (VHP) nozzle inspection programs for their respective facilities, including a summary discussion of inspection program plans to supplement their required visual inspections with non-visual nondestructive examination methods, or justification for reliance on visual examinations as the primary method to detect degradation. Addressees were requested to respond to Item 1 of the Bulletin within 30 days of its issuance, or within 15 days of its issuance, to provide an alternative course of action, including the basis for acceptability of the proposed action.

By letter dated September 11, 2002, Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Exelon) provided a response to Item 1 of the Bulletin, indicating the plans to perform RPV head and VHP nozzle inspections at Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2. The response also indicated that Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2 are in the category of plants considered to have low susceptibility to RPV head and VHP cracking, based on a susceptibility ranking of less than eight effective degradation years.

The NRC staff has reviewed your response to Item 1 of the Bulletin. The staff finds your immediate inspection plan to perform a 100 percent bare metal visual examination during the April 2003 Braidwood Station, Unit 1 outage and the 100 percent bare metal visual examination completed in April 2002 at Braidwood Station, Unit 2, to provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of public health and safety.

The staff notes that your justification for reliance on visual examinations and long-term inspection plans refer to the Electric Power Research Institute Materials Reliability Program (MRP) inspection plan for pressurized-water reactor RPV upper head penetrations. The staff has not completed its review of the MRP inspection plan and, as such, has not made a determination on the adequacy of the plan for ensuring applicable regulatory requirements are met. The staff's assessment of your justification and the adequacy of your long-term inspection program plans will be determined upon completion of the staff's review of the MRP inspection plan.

John L. Skolds

-2-

Also, please note that as stated in Item 2 of Bulletin 2002-02, you are to report your inspection scope and results to the Commission within 30 days after plant restart following the inspection of the RPV head and VHP nozzles. The staff finds your report submitted in response to Item 2.A of Bulletin 2002-01 for Braidwood Station, Unit 2, satisfies the report requested in Item 2 of Bulletin 2002-02.

Please contact me at (301) 415-8371 if you have any questions on this issue.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Mahesh Chawla, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate III  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. STN 50-456 and STN 50-457

cc: See next page

Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2

cc:

Regional Administrator, Region III  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
801 Warrenville Road  
Lisle, IL 60532-4351

Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety  
Office of Nuclear Facility Safety  
1035 Outer Park Drive  
Springfield, IL 62704

Document Control Desk-Licensing  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Ms. C. Sue Hauser, Project Manager  
Westinghouse Electric Corporation  
Energy Systems Business Unit  
Post Office Box 355  
Pittsburgh, PA 15230

Joseph Gallo  
Gallo & Ross  
1025 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 1014  
Washington, DC 20036

Ms. Bridget Little Rorem  
Appleseed Coordinator  
117 N. Linden Street  
Essex, IL 60935

Howard A. Learner  
Environmental Law and Policy  
Center of the Midwest  
35 East Wacker Dr., Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60601-2110

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Braidwood Resident Inspectors Office  
35100 S. Rt. 53, Suite 79  
Braceville, IL 60407

Ms. Lorraine Creek  
RR 1, Box 182  
Manteno, IL 60950

Illinois Emergency Management  
Agency  
Division of Disaster Assistance &  
Preparedness  
110 East Adams Street  
Springfield, IL 62701-1109

Chairman  
Will County Board of Supervisors  
Will County Board Courthouse  
Joliet, IL 60434

Attorney General  
500 S. Second Street  
Springfield, IL 62701

George L. Edgar  
Morgan, Lewis and Bockius  
1800 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20036-5869

Braidwood Station Manager  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
35100 S. Rt. 53, Suite 84  
Braceville, IL 60407-9619

Site Vice President - Braidwood  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
35100 S. Rt. 53, Suite 84  
Braceville, IL 60407-9619

Senior Vice President, Nuclear Services  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Operations Vice President  
Mid-West Operations Support  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Chairman, Ogle County Board  
Post Office Box 357  
Oregon, IL 61061

Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2

Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
Regulatory Assurance Manager - Braidwood  
35100 S. Rt. 53, Suite 84  
Braceville, IL 60407-9619

Senior Vice President  
Mid-West Regional Operating Group  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Director Licensing  
Mid-West Regional Operating Group  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Senior Counsel, Nuclear  
Mid-West Regional Operating Group  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Vice President - Licensing and Regulatory Affairs  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

Manager Licensing  
Braidwood and Byron  
Exelon Generation Company, LLC  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

John L. Skolds

-2-

Also, please note that as stated in Item 2 of Bulletin 2002-02, you are to report your inspection scope and results to the Commission within 30 days after plant restart following the inspection of the RPV head and VHP nozzles. The staff finds your report submitted in response to Item 2.A of Bulletin 2002-01 for Braidwood Station, Unit 2, satisfies the report requested in Item 2 of Bulletin 2002-02.

Please contact me at (301) 415-8371 if you have any questions on this issue.

Sincerely,

*/RA/*

Mahesh Chawla, Project Manager, Section 2  
Project Directorate 3  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. STN 50-456 and STN 50-457

cc: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

PUBLIC  
PD3-2 r/f  
OGC  
ACRS  
WReckley  
BPham  
LMarsh  
AHiser  
MMarshall  
TTate  
SBloom  
TChan  
AMendiola  
CRosenberg

**ADAMS Accession Number: ML023220268**

OFFICE	PD3-2/PM	PD1-2/PM	PD3-2/LA	EMCB/SC	PD3-2/SC
NAME	MChawla	TTate	CRosenberg	TChan	AMendiola
DATE	11/25/02	11/26/02	11/25/02	11/26/02	12/02/02

**OFFICIAL RECORD COPY**