



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-001

January 29, 2015

Mr. Michael P. Gallagher
Vice President, License Renewal Projects
Exelon Generation Company, LLC
200 Exelon Way
P.O. Box 500
Kennett Square, PA 19348

SUBJECT: SCHEDULE REVISION FOR THE REVIEW OF THE BYRON AND
BRAIDWOOD STATIONS, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL
APPLICATION (TAC NO. MF1832, MF1833, MF1792, MF1793, MF1879,
MF1880, MF1881, AND MF1882)

Dear Mr. Gallagher:

By letter dated May 29, 2013, Exelon Generation Company, LLC, submitted an application pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51 and 10 CFR Part 54, to renew operating licenses NPF-37, NPF-66, NPF-72 and NPF-77, respectively, for Byron Station, Units 1 and 2 (Byron), and for Braidwood Station, Units 1 and 2 (Braidwood), for review by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). This letter is to inform you of a change in the environmental review schedule for the Braidwood license renewal review and a change to the safety review for Byron and Braidwood.

Regarding the staff's environmental review, by letter dated October 17, 2014, the staff issued a letter revising the environmental review schedule. This revision established a January 2015 issuance date for the Braidwood draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). Due to issues related to technical editing and review of the SEIS, the staff needs additional time to complete the draft SEIS. The new issuance date for the final SEIS is March 2015. The projected issuance date for the final SEISs for Byron and Braidwood have not changed and are scheduled for July 2015 and September 2015, respectively.

The staff is also revising the following safety review milestones: "Issue final SER [Safety Evaluation Report]" and "Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) full committee meeting." The final SER issuance milestone is revised from April 2015 to July 2015 because the staff needs additional information to complete its review of unresolved technical issues, in particular those concerning: (1) the Flux Thimble Tube Inspection Aging Management Program (AMP); (2) Cracking of Nickel-Alloy Components and Loss of Material Due to Boric Acid-Induced Corrosion in Reactor Coolant Pressure Boundary Components AMP; (3) metal fatigue time-limited aging analysis (TLAA); (4) any recent current licensing basis changes that affect the staff's evaluation as reported in the Safety Evaluation with Open Items issued October 30, 2014 (ADAMS Accession No. ML14296A176); and (5) all outstanding requests for additional information. Due to the

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revision of the final SER issuance milestone, the ACRS full committee meeting milestone is revised from May 2015 to September 2015.

The staff notes that to complete all necessary safety review milestones (e.g. issue final SER and ACRS full committee meeting) to support the November 2015 final decisions on renewed licenses for Byron and Braidwood, Exelon needs to resolve all technical issues by March 16, 2015. Therefore, final responses to all unresolved technical issues need to be provided to the staff no later than March 2, 2015. After receiving your responses to the unresolved technical issues discussed above, the staff will review the responses, determine if there is reasonable assurance that the safety concern(s) and aging management issue(s) are addressed, and then document the final determination in its safety review. The completeness and quality of your responses are essential to maintain the revised schedule, and any delay could result in additional revisions to the enclosed schedule, with the added potential of leaving milestone schedule dates "to be determined".

Enclosed is the NRC staff's revised review schedule for the Byron and Braidwood license renewal application. If you have any questions related to the revised environmental schedule for Braidwood, please contact Tam Tran at 301-415-3617 or by e-mail at Tam.Tran@nrc.gov. If you have any questions related to the revised safety schedule, please contact John Daily at 301-415-3873 or by e-mail at John.Daily@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher G. Miller, Director
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-454, 50-455, 50-456, and 50-457

Enclosure:
Revised Schedule

cc w/encl: Listserv

revision of the final SER issuance milestone, the ACRS full committee meeting milestone is revised from May 2015 to September 2015.

The staff notes that to complete all necessary safety review milestones (e.g. issue final SER and ACRS full committee meeting) to support the November 2015 final decisions on renewed licenses for Byron and Braidwood, Exelon needs to resolve all technical issues by March 16, 2015. Therefore, final responses to all unresolved technical issues need to be provided to the staff no later than March 2, 2015. After receiving your responses to the unresolved technical issues discussed above, the staff will review the responses, determine if there is reasonable assurance that the safety concern(s) and aging management issue(s) are addressed, and then document the final determination in its safety review. The completeness and quality of your responses are essential to maintain the revised schedule, and any delay could result in additional revisions to the enclosed schedule, with the added potential of leaving milestone schedule dates "to be determined".

Enclosed is the NRC staff's revised review schedule for the Byron and Braidwood license renewal application. If you have any questions related to the revised environmental schedule for Braidwood, please contact Tam Tran at 301-415-3617 or by e-mail at Tam.Tran@nrc.gov. If you have any questions related to the revised safety schedule, please contact John Daily at 301 415 3873 or by e-mail at John.Daily@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Christopher G. Miller, Director
 Division of License Renewal
 Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-454, 50-455, 50-456, and 50-457

Enclosure:
 Revised Schedule
 cc w/encl: Listserv

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML15008A442

*concurring via email

OFFICE	LA:DLR:RPB2*	PM:DLR:RPB2	PM:DLR:RPB2	PM:DLR:RPB1	PM:DLR:RPB1
NAME	IBetts	TTran	LJames	LRobinson	JDaily
DATE	1/26/15	1/27/15	1/28/15	1/28/15	1/28/15
OFFICE	BC:DLR:RPB2	BC:DLR:RPB1	D:DLR		
NAME	BWittick	YDiaz-Sanabria	CMiller		
DATE	1/28/15	1/29/15	1/29/15		

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**BYRON STATION AND BRAIDWOOD STATION
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
UPDATED ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE**

Milestones	Schedule Date	Actual Date
Receive license renewal application (LRA)	05/29/13	05/29/13
Publish Federal Register Notice (FRN) – LRA availability	06/2013	06/13/13
Publish FRN – acceptance/rejection and opportunity for hearing	07/2013	07/24/13
Publish FRN – environmental scoping meeting	07/2013	08/06/13
Audit – Scoping & Screening Methodology 1 (at Byron)	07/2013	07/2013
Audit – Aging Management Programs 1 (at Byron)	08/2013	08/2013
Public Meeting - License Renewal Overview and Environmental Scoping meetings	08/20/13- 08/21/13	08/20/13 (Byron) 08/21/13 (Braidwood)
Deadline for filing hearing requests and petitions for intervention	09/2013	09/23/13
Audit – Environmental (Byron)	09/2013	09/19/13
Environmental scoping period ends	09/2013	09/27/13
Audit – Scoping & Screening Methodology 2 (at Braidwood)	10/2013	12/02/13- 12/04/13
Audit – Aging Management Programs 2 (at Braidwood)	10/2013	12/02/13- 12/06/13
Audit – Environmental (Braidwood)	11/2013	11/19/13
Regional Inspection (Byron)	08/2014	8/4/14- 8/8/14 and 8/22/14
Regional Inspection (Braidwood)	09/2014	9/15/14- 9/26/14
Issue safety evaluation report (SER) with open items	11/2014	10/30/14
Issue draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) - Byron	12/2014	12/31/14
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards (ACRS) Subcommittee meeting	12/2014	12/3/14
Publish U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) FRN Published – availability of final SEIS FRN – Byron draft SEIS available for comments	01/2015	01/02/15
Issue draft SEIS - Braidwood	03/2015	
Publish EPA FRN – Braidwood draft SEIS available for comments	03/2015	
Public Meeting – Byron draft SEIS meeting	02/2015	

ENCLOSURE

Public Meeting – Braidwood draft SEIS meeting	04/2015	
End of draft SEIS comment period – Byron	03/2015	
End of draft SEIS comment period – Braidwood	05/2015	
Issue final SER	07/2015	
ACRS full committee meeting	09/2015	
Issue final SEIS – Byron	07/2015	
Publish EPA FRN – availability of final SEIS – Byron	08/2015	
Issue final SEIS – Braidwood	09/2015	
Publish EPA FRN – availability of final SEIS – Braidwood	09/2015	
Decision – Director, NRR	11/2015	
Commission decision, if hearing granted	TBD	

Letter to M. Gallagher from C. Miller dated January 29, 2015

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