

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
Region III Office of Public Affairs
801 Warrenville Road, Lisle, IL 60532-4351

NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT: RIII-99-30

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NRC STAFF TO MEET WITH COMMONWEALTH EDISON OFFICIALS
TO DISCUSS PERFORMANCE AT BRAIDWOOD NUCLEAR PLANT

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff will meet Thursday, May 27, with Commonwealth Edison Company officials to discuss the recent Plant Performance Review of the Braidwood Nuclear Power Station. The plant is located in Braidwood, Illinois.

The meeting will be at 1 p.m. in the Training Building at the Braidwood plant. The plant is located on Illinois Route 53 about two miles south of Braidwood. The meeting is open to public observation. NRC officials will be available after the meeting for questions and comments from members of the public and the news media.

[The Plant Performance Review assessment of Braidwood was previously covered in News Announcement RIII-99-18, issued on April 1]

In a March 26 letter to Commonwealth Edison Company, which operates the plant, Geoffrey Grant, Division Director in the NRC's Region III Office, said "Braidwood's overall performance was acceptable."

The text of the plant performance review letter is available from the NRC Region III Office of Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr/456ppr1.htm>. The review covered the time period from August 30, 1997, through January 31.

NRC reviews safety performance twice a year at every licensed nuclear power plant in the nation. These reviews give the agency staff an integrated assessment of plant performance and provide a basis for planning inspection activities.

Plant performance reviews are an interim measure NRC is using to monitor nuclear power plant safety. The agency began using it for this purpose after suspending the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) process until a new assessment program is developed. Previously, SALP reports were issued every 12 to 24 months.

The new reactor oversight and assessment program being developed will provide quarterly performance reports, based on a number of performance indicators and on inspection findings. This program will be tested at nine plants beginning in June and will be extended to all plants next January. A full description of the new program is available on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/primer.htm>.

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