

Special Status Species Correspondence

Braidwood Station Environmental Report

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Exelon Generation

November 09, 2012

Mr. Richard Nelson
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Rock Island Field Office
1511 47th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265

Michael P. Gallagher
Vice President, License Renewal
Exelon Nuclear
200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610 765 5958 Office
610 765 5956 Fax
www.exeloncorp.com
michaelp.gallagher@exeloncorp.com

SUBJECT: Exelon Generation, LLC – Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2 License Renewal Project. Request for Information on Listed Species and Sensitive Habitats – Kankakee County

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Exelon Generation, LLC (Exelon) plans to apply to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for renewal of the operating licenses for Braidwood Station (Braidwood) Units 1 and 2, in June 2013. The existing operating license for Unit 1 will expire on October 17, 2026, and the existing operating license for Unit 2 will expire on December 18, 2027. Renewed licenses would allow Braidwood Units 1 and 2 to operate until 2046 and 2047, respectively.

As part of the license renewal process, the NRC requires license renewal applications to include environmental reports assessing the impacts from license renewal activities on threatened or endangered species, listed or proposed for listing in accordance with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 USC 1531, et seq.)(10 CFR 51.53(c)(3)(ii)(E)). This letter seeks input from the USFWS regarding such effects in the vicinity of Braidwood. Later, the NRC may also request an informal consultation with your office under Section 7 of the ESA (16 USC 1536(a)).

Project Features

Braidwood is located in northeastern Illinois, about 60 miles southwest of Chicago, in Will County. The property is approximately 1 mile from the town of Godley, 2 miles from the town of Braidwood, and 6 miles from the town of Wilmington, as shown in Figure 1.

The Braidwood property includes approximately 4,457 acres, of which approximately 2,537 acres comprise the cooling pond. Formerly a strip mine, the cooling pond was formed during 1980 through 1981 by pumping water from the Kankakee River into the mine excavations. Braidwood is situated in an area of relatively flat to rolling terrain. Agriculture is the dominant land use within a 6-mile radius of the site.

The nuclear generating facilities at Braidwood are sited in the northwest quadrant of the site and include the two reactor containment buildings and related structures, a switchyard, administration buildings, warehouses, and other features. Cooling pond makeup water intake and blowdown discharge pipelines run in a right-of-way (ROW) from the northeast site boundary to a location on the Kankakee River approximately 5 miles east. The cooling pond blowdown discharge is released to the Kankakee River via a multi-port diffuser pipe that extends halfway across the riverbed at a location approximately 500 feet downstream of the makeup water intake structure. This discharge is subject to limitations established by National Pollutant Discharge

Nelson-2

Elimination System (NPDES) Permit IL0048321. The cooling pond has an elevation of 595 feet above mean sea level when filled to capacity. Exelon has made much of the cooling pond available for public access under agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The pond is a waterfowl refuge managed jointly by Exelon and the Illinois DNR for fishing, waterfowl hunting (from designated blinds), fossil collecting, picnicking, and boating with associated parking and boat launch facilities.

Two 345-kilovolt (345-kV) electrical transmission lines collocated in a single ROW, shown on Figure 2, were constructed with the station to connect it to the electric grid at the location of the former Crete transmission substation (TSS) (now retired) and are considered to be within the scope of the license renewal project. The ROW, which is owned and maintained by Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd), is referred to as the Braidwood-to-Crete (retired) ROW for purposes of the license renewal project, but it has also been referred to in other documentation as the Braidwood-to-Davis Creek ROW. The Braidwood-to-Crete (retired) ROW ranges from 315 to 455 feet wide and extends approximately 55.5 miles east of the station and passes through a region that is primarily agricultural or rangeland. The area is mostly remote, with low population densities. The ROW crosses Will and Kankakee counties as well as the Kankakee River. In locations where the ROW passes through farmland, the land generally continues to be used as farmland.

Identification of Threatened and Endangered Species Resources

In August 2008, prior to construction of the multi-port diffuser blowdown pipe, which discharges to the Kankakee River, Exelon conducted a fish and mussel survey to assess the affected reach of the river for protected fish and mussel species. No federally listed species was found during the survey.

Bald eagles previously nested at the Braidwood cooling pond, but have not nested there in recent years. Bald eagles are sometimes seen foraging around the cooling pond, especially in the winter when other ponds and lakes in the area are frozen. Although the USFWS removed the bald eagle from the federal list of threatened and endangered species in 2007, the bald eagle is still federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Exelon is not aware of any other federally listed species being observed on the Braidwood site or along the associated ROWs.

The Braidwood license renewal project information was submitted to the Illinois DNR through the EcoCAT system. Attached for your review are the Illinois DNR reports listing the Natural Resource Review results of the Illinois Natural Heritage database for (1) the Braidwood Station; (2) the Braidwood Station Blowdown to Kankakee River, Segments 1 and 2; (3) the Braidwood Station to Davis Creek Transmission Line, Segments 1 through 6; and (4) the Braidwood to Former Crete Substation Transmission Line, Segments 1 through 5. These attached database results for Braidwood and the associated ROWs show that several protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location.

Activities During the License Renewal Terms

Renewal of Braidwood Units 1 and 2 operating licenses will involve neither new construction, nor any land disturbing activities, changes to plant operations, or modifications of the transmission system that connects the plant to the regional electric

Nelson-3

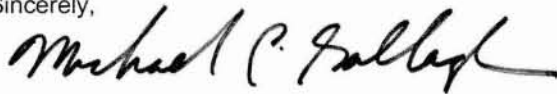
grid. Operation and maintenance activities during the terms of the renewed licenses are only expected to occur in previously disturbed areas or existing ROWs. Also, Exelon and ComEd adhere to regulatory requirements regarding sensitive areas that could contain threatened or endangered species and work closely with USFWS and the Illinois DNR to protect these resources. Therefore, Exelon expects that continued operation and maintenance of Units 1 and 2 over the license renewal period (i.e., an additional 20 years for each unit), including maintenance of the ROWs for the transmission line and cooling pond makeup water intake and blowdown discharge pipelines, would not adversely affect any species (or ecologically significant habitats) that is federally listed or proposed for federal listing as threatened or endangered.

Nevertheless, Exelon is requesting your help to identify potential impacts or other issues we may have overlooked that need to be addressed in the Braidwood license renewal environmental report. We are also interested in learning of any information your staff believes could help expedite the NRC's review of the Braidwood license renewal application. Hence, in closing, we would appreciate receiving a response from you detailing such issues and information for the Braidwood site and the ROWs for the transmission line and cooling pond makeup water intake and blowdown discharge pipelines. We would also welcome your confirmation of our conclusion that Braidwood license renewal activities would not adversely affect any species that is federally listed or proposed for listing as threatened and endangered.

Because Exelon will incorporate a copy of your response, as well as this letter, into the Braidwood license renewal environmental report that will be submitted to the NRC as part of the Braidwood license renewal application, your response will be most helpful if it is received by December 14, 2012.

Please refer any questions regarding this submittal to Nancy Ranek, our License Renewal Environmental Lead, at (610) 765-5369.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Gallagher

Enclosures:

- Figure 1: Project Location Map
- Figure 2: Braidwood to Crete (retired) Transmission Line Right-of Way
- EcoCAT Reports: (1) Braidwood Station
- (2) Braidwood Station Blowdown Discharge Line, Segments 1 and 2
- (3) Braidwood to Davis Creek Substation Transmission Line ROW, Segments 1 through 6
- (4) Braidwood-to-Crete (retired) Transmission Line ROW Segments 1 through 5



Exelon Generation

November 09, 2012

Mr. Louise Clemency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Chicago Field Office
1250 South Grove, Suite 103
Barrington, IL 60010

Michael P. Gallagher
Vice President, License Renewal
Exelon Nuclear
200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348
610 765 5958 Office
610 765 5956 Fax
www.exeloncorp.com
michaelp.gallagher@exeloncorp.com

SUBJECT: Exelon Generation, LLC – Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2 License Renewal Project. Request for Information on Listed Species and Sensitive Habitats – Will County

Dear Mr. Clemency:

Exelon Generation, LLC (Exelon) plans to apply to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for renewal of the operating licenses for Braidwood Station (Braidwood) Units 1 and 2, in June 2013. The existing operating license for Unit 1 will expire on October 17, 2026, and the existing operating license for Unit 2 will expire on December 18, 2027. Renewed licenses would allow Braidwood Units 1 and 2 to operate until 2046 and 2047, respectively.

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Project Features

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The nuclear generating facilities at Braidwood are sited in the northwest quadrant of the site and include the two reactor containment buildings and related structures, a switchyard, administration buildings, warehouses, and other features. Cooling pond makeup water intake and blowdown discharge pipelines run in a right-of-way (ROW) from the northeast site boundary to a location on the Kankakee River approximately 5 miles east. The cooling pond blowdown discharge is released to the Kankakee River via a multi-port diffuser pipe that extends halfway across the riverbed at a location approximately 500 feet downstream of the makeup water intake structure. This discharge is subject to limitations established by National Pollutant Discharge

Clemency - 2

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Identification of Threatened and Endangered Species Resources

In August 2008, prior to construction of the multi-port diffuser blowdown pipe, which discharges to the Kankakee River, Exelon conducted a fish and mussel survey to assess the affected reach of the river for protected fish and mussel species. No federally listed species was found during the survey.

Bald eagles previously nested at the Braidwood cooling pond, but have not nested there in recent years. Bald eagles are sometimes seen foraging around the cooling pond, especially in the winter when other ponds and lakes in the area are frozen. Although the USFWS removed the bald eagle from the federal list of threatened and endangered species in 2007, the bald eagle is still federally protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Exelon is not aware of any other federally listed species being observed on the Braidwood site or along the associated ROWs.

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Activities During the License Renewal Terms

Renewal of Braidwood Units 1 and 2 operating licenses will involve neither new construction, nor any land disturbing activities, changes to plant operations, or modifications of the transmission system that connects the plant to the regional electric

Clemency - 3

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Sincerely,



Michael P. Gallagher

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Michael P. Gallagher
Vice President, License Renewal
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November 09, 2012

Mr. Todd Rettig
Division Manager
Office of Realty and Environmental Planning
Illinois Department of Natural Resources
1 Natural Resources Way, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271

SUBJECT: Exelon Generation, LLC – Braidwood Station Units 1 and 2 License Renewal Project. Request for Information on Listed Species and Sensitive Habitats – Will County

Dear Mr. Rettig:

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Rettig - 2

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Rettig - 3

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Michael P. Gallagher

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- (4) Braidwood-to-Crete (retired) Transmission Line ROW Segments 1 through 5

Figure 1 Project Location Map

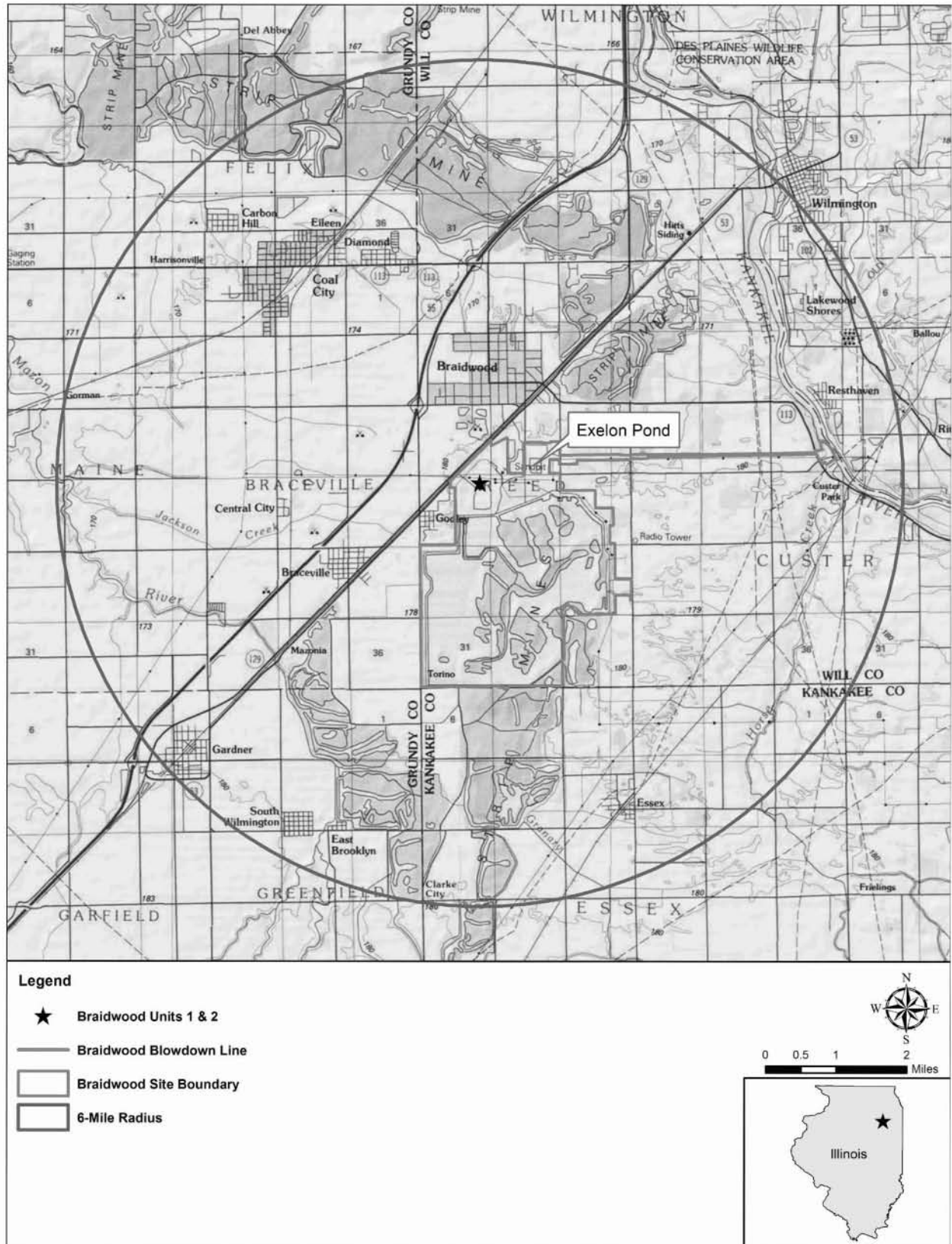
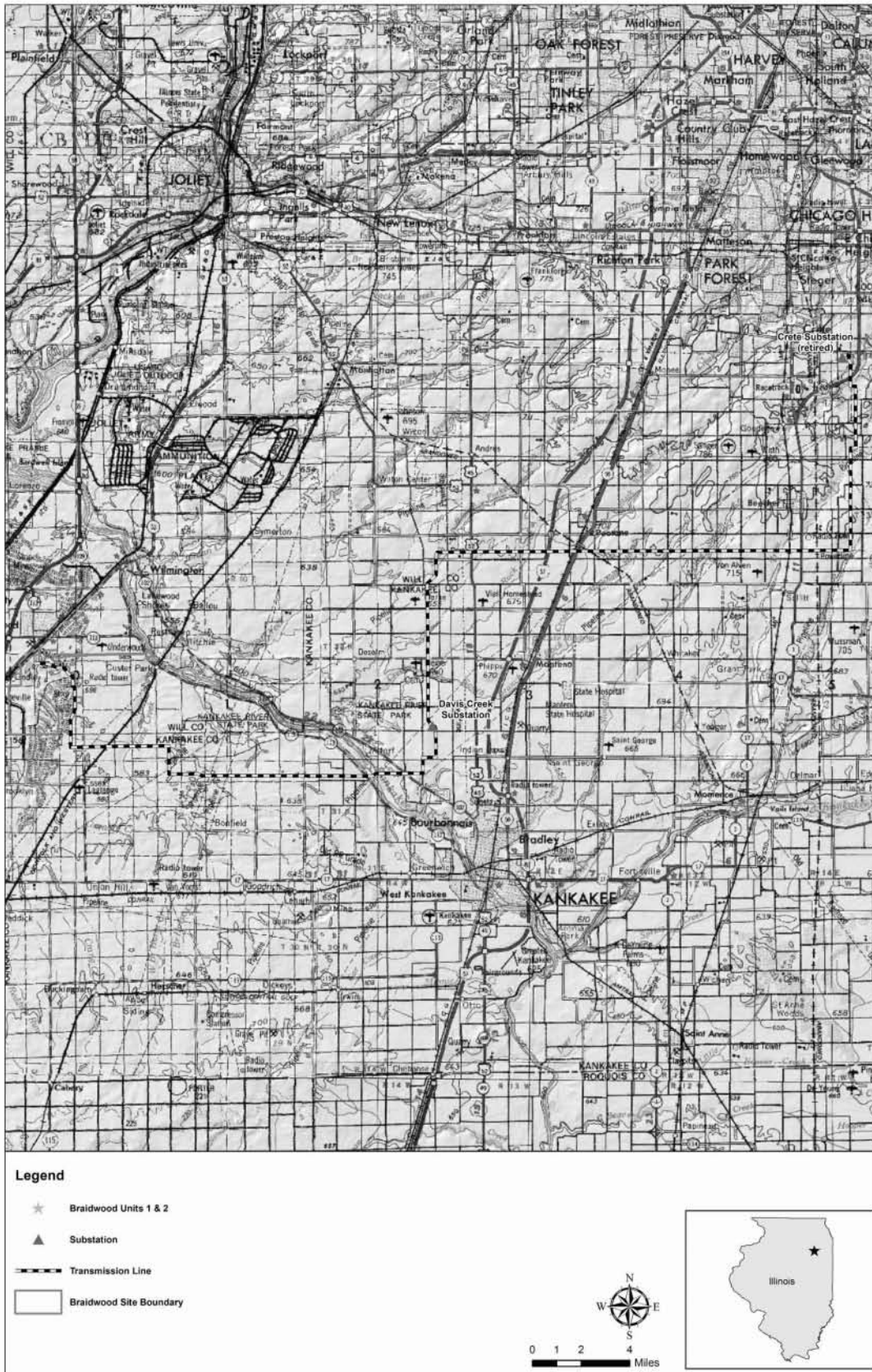


Figure 2 Braidwood to Crete (retired) Transmission Line Right-of-Way





Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1209500
Date: 02/23/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for
Address: Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2
35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

- Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Class III Groundwater Site
- Braidwood Dunes And Savanna INAI Site
- Essex Pit Number Eleven Geological Area INAI Site
- Godley Railroad Prairie INAI Site
- Braidwood Dunes And Savanna Nature Preserve
- Blanding'S Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)
- Oklahoma Grass Pink Orchid (*Calopogon oklahomensis*)
- Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata*)
- Pallid Shiner (*Hybopsis amnis*)
- Tuberclad Orchid (*Platanthera flava* var. *herbiola*)

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Grundy

Township, Range, Section:

32N, 8E, 25 32N, 8E, 36

County: Will

Township, Range, Section:

32N, 9E, 17 32N, 9E, 18



IDNR Project Number: 1209500

32N, 9E, 19	32N, 9E, 20
32N, 9E, 21	32N, 9E, 28
32N, 9E, 29	32N, 9E, 30
32N, 9E, 31	32N, 9E, 32

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact

Impact Assessment Section
217-785-5500
Division of Ecosystems & Environment

Disclaimer

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database cannot provide a conclusive statement on the presence, absence, or condition of natural resources in Illinois. This review reflects the information existing in the Database at the time of this inquiry, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, compliance with applicable statutes and regulations is required.

Terms of Use

By using this website, you acknowledge that you have read and agree to these terms. These terms may be revised by IDNR as necessary. If you continue to use the EcoCAT application after we post changes to these terms, it will mean that you accept such changes. If at any time you do not accept the Terms of Use, you may not continue to use the website.

1. The IDNR EcoCAT website was developed so that units of local government, state agencies and the public could request information or begin natural resource consultations on-line for the Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act, Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act, and Illinois Interagency Wetland Policy Act. EcoCAT uses databases, Geographic Information System mapping, and a set of programmed decision rules to determine if proposed actions are in the vicinity of protected natural resources. By indicating your agreement to the Terms of Use for this application, you warrant that you will not use this web site for any other purpose.
2. Unauthorized attempts to upload, download, or change information on this website are strictly prohibited and may be punishable under the Computer Fraud and Abuse Act of 1986 and/or the National Information Infrastructure Protection Act.
3. IDNR reserves the right to enhance, modify, alter, or suspend the website at any time without notice, or to terminate or restrict access.

Security

EcoCAT operates on a state of Illinois computer system. We may use software to monitor traffic and to identify unauthorized attempts to upload, download, or change information, to cause harm or otherwise to damage this site. Unauthorized attempts to upload, download, or change information on this server is strictly prohibited by law.

Unauthorized use, tampering with or modification of this system, including supporting hardware or software, may subject the violator to criminal and civil penalties. In the event of unauthorized intrusion, all relevant information regarding possible violation of law may be provided to law enforcement officials.

Privacy

EcoCAT generates a public record subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Otherwise, IDNR uses the information submitted to EcoCAT solely for internal tracking purposes.



Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1305729
Date: 10/30/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Address: (NRC) for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Blowdown to Kankakee Segment
1
Braidwood Generating Station, 35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

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Godley Railroad Prairie INAI Site
Kankakee River INAI Site
Munch Area INAI Site
Braidwood Dunes And Savanna Nature Preserve
Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve
Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)
Blanding'S Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)
Eryngium Stem Borer (*Papaipema eryngii*)
Large Cranberry (*Vaccinium macrocarpon*)
Mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*)
Narrow-Leaved Sundew (*Drosera intermedia*)
Narrow-Leaved Sundew (*Drosera intermedia*)
Oklahoma Grass Pink Orchid (*Calopogon oklahomensis*)
Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata*)
Pallid Shiner (*Hybopsis amnis*)
Pallid Shiner (*Hybopsis amnis*)
Purple Wartback (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*)
River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*)

IDNR Project Number: 1305729

River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*)
Sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*)
Shore St. John'S Wort (*Hypericum adpressum*)
Shore St. John'S Wort (*Hypericum adpressum*)
Spike (*Elliptio dilatata*)
Tuberclad Orchid (*Platanthera flava* var. *herbiola*)
Tuberclad Orchid (*Platanthera flava* var. *herbiola*)
Western Sand Darter (*Ammocrypta clarum*)

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.



County: Will

Township, Range, Section:

32N, 10E, 18	32N, 10E, 19
32N, 9E, 13	32N, 9E, 14
32N, 9E, 15	32N, 9E, 16
32N, 9E, 17	32N, 9E, 18
32N, 9E, 19	32N, 9E, 20
32N, 9E, 21	32N, 9E, 22
32N, 9E, 23	32N, 9E, 24

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact

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IDNR Project Number: 1305729

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Privacy

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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1305730
Alternate #: 1305729
Date: 10/30/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Address: (NRC) for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Blowdown to Kankakee Segment
2 Along River
Braidwood Generating Station, 35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Hitts Siding Prairie INAI Site
Kankakee River INAI Site
Munch Area INAI Site
Wilmington Geological Area INAI Site
Wilmington Shrub Prairie INAI Site
Hitts Siding Prairie Nature Preserve
Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve
Wilmington Shrub Prairie Nature Preserve
Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)
Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)
Blanding'S Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)
Blanding'S Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)
Ear-Leafed Foxglove (*Tomanthera auriculata*)
Eryngium Stem Borer (*Papaipema eryngii*)
Forked Aster (*Aster furcatus*)
Mudpuppy (*Necturus maculosus*)
Oklahoma Grass Pink Orchid (*Calopogon oklahomensis*)
Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata*)
Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata*)
Pallid Shiner (*Hybopsis amnis*)

IDNR Project Number: 1305730

Pallid Shiner (*Hybopsis amnis*)
Purple Wartyback (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*)
Purple Wartyback (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*)
River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*)
Salamander Mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*)
Sheepnose (*Plethobasus cyphus*)
Spike (*Elliptio dilatata*)
Western Sand Darter (*Ammocrypta clarum*)
Western Sand Darter (*Ammocrypta clarum*)

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Will

Township, Range, Section:

32N, 10E, 7	32N, 10E, 18
32N, 10E, 19	32N, 9E, 1
32N, 9E, 2	32N, 9E, 11
32N, 9E, 12	32N, 9E, 13
32N, 9E, 24	33N, 9E, 25
33N, 9E, 26	33N, 9E, 35
33N, 9E, 36	



IL Department of Natural Resources Contact

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IDNR Project Number: 1305730

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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1209504
Date: 02/23/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for
Address: Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Davis Transmission Segment 1
35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Class III Groundwater Site
Braidwood Dunes And Savanna INAI Site
Essex Pit Number Eleven Geological Area INAI Site
Godley Railroad Prairie INAI Site
Braidwood Dunes And Savanna Nature Preserve
Blanding'S Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*)
Oklahoma Grass Pink Orchid (*Calopogon oklahomensis*)
Ornate Box Turtle (*Terrapene ornata*)
Pallid Shiner (*Hybopsis amnis*)
Tuberclcd Orchid (*Platanthera flava var. herbiola*)

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Kankakee

Township, Range, Section:

31N, 9E, 4

County: Will

Township, Range, Section:

32N, 9E, 16

32N, 9E, 17



IDNR Project Number: 1209504

32N, 9E, 20 32N, 9E, 21
32N, 9E, 28 32N, 9E, 33

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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1209509
Date: 02/23/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for
Address: Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Davis Transmission Segment 2
35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Essex Pit Number Eleven Geological Area INAI Site

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Kankakee

Township, Range, Section:

31N, 9E, 1 31N, 9E, 2
31N, 9E, 3 31N, 9E, 4



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IDNR Project Number: 1209509

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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1209512
Date: 02/23/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for
Address: Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Davis Transmission Segment 3
35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project location.

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Kankakee

Township, Range, Section:

31N, 10E, 4	31N, 10E, 5
31N, 10E, 6	31N, 10E, 7
31N, 10E, 8	31N, 10E, 9
31N, 9E, 1	31N, 9E, 12



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IDNR Project Number: 1209512

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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1209514
Date: 02/23/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for
Address: Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Davis Transmission Segment 4
35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project location.

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Kankakee

Township, Range, Section:

31N, 10E, 9 31N, 10E, 10
31N, 10E, 11 31N, 10E, 12
31N, 11E, 7



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IDNR Project Number: 1209514

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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1209515
Date: 02/23/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for
Address: Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Davis Transmission Segment 5
35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

- Kankakee River INAI Site
- Kankakee River Prairie INAI Site
- Kankakee River Nature Preserve
- Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)
- Corn Salad (*Valerianella umbilicata*)
- Kankakee Mallow (*Iliamna remota*)
- Pallid Shiner (*Hybopsis amnis*)
- Purple Wartyback (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*)
- River Redhorse (*Moxostoma carinatum*)
- Salamander Mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*)

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Kankakee

Township, Range, Section:

31N, 10E, 12	31N, 11E, 7
31N, 11E, 8	31N, 11E, 9
31N, 11E, 10	



IDNR Project Number: 1209515

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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1209517
Date: 02/23/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for
Address: Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Davis Transmission Segment 6
35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

- Kankakee River INAI Site
- Kankakee River Nature Preserve
- Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)
- Pallid Shiner (*Hybopsis amnis*)
- Purple Wartyback (*Cyclonaias tuberculata*)
- Salamander Mussel (*Simpsonaias ambigua*)

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Kankakee

Township, Range, Section:

31N, 11E, 1	31N, 11E, 2
31N, 11E, 10	31N, 11E, 11
31N, 11E, 12	32N, 11E, 35
32N, 11E, 36	



IDNR Project Number: 1209517

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact
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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1305787
Date: 10/31/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Address: (NRC) for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Davis Substation to Former Crete Substation Segment 1
Braidwood Generating Station, 35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database contains no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species, Illinois Natural Area Inventory sites, dedicated Illinois Nature Preserves, or registered Land and Water Reserves in the vicinity of the project location.

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.



County: Kankakee

Township, Range, Section:

31N, 11E, 1	31N, 11E, 2
31N, 12E, 6	32N, 11E, 1
32N, 11E, 2	32N, 11E, 11
32N, 11E, 12	32N, 11E, 13
32N, 11E, 14	32N, 11E, 23
32N, 11E, 24	32N, 11E, 25
32N, 11E, 26	32N, 11E, 35
32N, 11E, 36	32N, 12E, 6
32N, 12E, 7	32N, 12E, 18
32N, 12E, 19	32N, 12E, 30
32N, 12E, 31	

County: Will

Township, Range, Section:

33N, 11E, 25	33N, 11E, 26
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IDNR Project Number: 1305787

33N, 11E, 35 33N, 11E, 36
33N, 12E, 30 33N, 12E, 31

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact

Impact Assessment Section
217-785-5500
Division of Ecosystems & Environment

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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1305789
Date: 10/31/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Address: (NRC) for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Davis Substation to Former Crete Substation Segment 2
Braidwood Generating Station, 35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Eryngium Stem Borer (*Papaipema eryngii*)
Slippershell (*Alasmidonta viridis*)

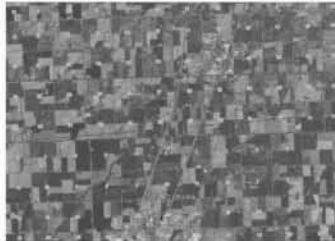
Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Will

Township, Range, Section:

33N, 11E, 23	33N, 11E, 24
33N, 11E, 25	33N, 11E, 26
33N, 11E, 35	33N, 11E, 36
33N, 12E, 25	33N, 12E, 26
33N, 12E, 27	33N, 12E, 28
33N, 12E, 29	33N, 12E, 30
33N, 12E, 31	33N, 12E, 32
33N, 12E, 33	33N, 12E, 34
33N, 12E, 35	33N, 12E, 36
33N, 13E, 28	33N, 13E, 29
33N, 13E, 30	33N, 13E, 31
33N, 13E, 32	33N, 13E, 33



IDNR Project Number: 1305789

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact

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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1305790
Date: 10/31/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Address: (NRC) for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Davis Substation to Former Crete Substation Segment 3
Braidwood Generating Station, 35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

Slippershell (*Alasmidonta viridis*)
Slippershell (*Alasmidonta viridis*)

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Will

Township, Range, Section:

33N, 13E, 21	33N, 13E, 22
33N, 13E, 23	33N, 13E, 24
33N, 13E, 25	33N, 13E, 26
33N, 13E, 27	33N, 13E, 28
33N, 13E, 33	33N, 13E, 34
33N, 13E, 35	33N, 13E, 36
33N, 14E, 19	33N, 14E, 20
33N, 14E, 21	33N, 14E, 22
33N, 14E, 23	33N, 14E, 24
33N, 14E, 25	33N, 14E, 26
33N, 14E, 27	33N, 14E, 28
33N, 14E, 29	33N, 14E, 30
33N, 14E, 31	33N, 14E, 32



IDNR Project Number: 1305790

33N, 14E, 33	33N, 14E, 34
33N, 14E, 35	33N, 14E, 36
33N, 15E, 29	33N, 15E, 30
33N, 15E, 31	33N, 15E, 32

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact

Impact Assessment Section
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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1305794
Date: 10/31/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Address: (NRC) for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Davis Substation to Former Crete Substation Segment 4
Braidwood Generating Station, 35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

- Goodenow Grove INAI Site
- Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve
- Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*)
- Kirtland'S Snake (*Clonophis kirtlandi*)
- Slippershell (*Alasmidonta viridis*)
- Spotted Coral-Root Orchid (*Corallorhiza maculata*)
- Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)

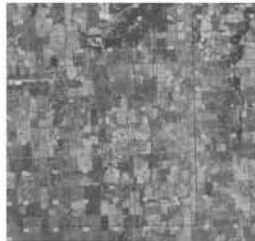
Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Will

Township, Range, Section:

33N, 14E, 1	33N, 14E, 2
33N, 14E, 3	33N, 14E, 10
33N, 14E, 11	33N, 14E, 12
33N, 14E, 13	33N, 14E, 14
33N, 14E, 15	33N, 14E, 20
33N, 14E, 21	33N, 14E, 22
33N, 14E, 23	33N, 14E, 24



IDNR Project Number: 1305794

33N, 14E, 25	33N, 14E, 26
33N, 14E, 27	33N, 14E, 28
33N, 14E, 29	33N, 14E, 30
33N, 14E, 31	33N, 14E, 32
33N, 14E, 33	33N, 14E, 34
33N, 14E, 35	33N, 14E, 36
34N, 14E, 25	34N, 14E, 26
34N, 14E, 27	34N, 14E, 34
34N, 14E, 35	34N, 14E, 36

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact

Impact Assessment Section
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Division of Ecosystems & Environment

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IDNR Project Number: 1305794

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Applicant: Exelon Generation Company LLC
Contact: Nancy L. Ranek
Address: 200 Exelon Way
Kennett Square, PA 19348

IDNR Project #: 1305798
Date: 10/31/2012

Project: Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Address: (NRC) for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Davis Substation to Former Crete Substation Segment 5
Braidwood Generating Station, 35100 S. Rt 59, Braceville

Description: Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Braidwood Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, in order to provide an option for power generation capability beyond the term of the current operating licenses, as such needs may be determined by State, utility, and where authorized, Federal (other than the NRC) decision makers. License renewal will authorize no new construction or operational changes either at the Station or along the associated electricity transmission line rights-of-way.

Natural Resource Review Results

This project was submitted for information only. It is not a consultation under Part 1075.

The Illinois Natural Heritage Database shows the following protected resources may be in the vicinity of the project location:

- Goodenow Grove INAI Site
- Goodenow Grove Nature Preserve
- Eastern Massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*)
- Four-Toed Salamander (*Hemidactylum scutatum*)
- Kirtland'S Snake (*Clonophis kirtlandi*)
- Upland Sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*)

Location

The applicant is responsible for the accuracy of the location submitted for the project.

County: Will

Township, Range, Section:

34N, 14E, 10	34N, 14E, 11
34N, 14E, 12	34N, 14E, 13
34N, 14E, 14	34N, 14E, 15
34N, 14E, 22	34N, 14E, 23
34N, 14E, 24	34N, 14E, 25
34N, 14E, 26	



IDNR Project Number: 1305798

IL Department of Natural Resources Contact

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Ranek, Nancy L.:(GenCo-Nuc)

Subject: Braidwood Stations 1 and 2 License Renewal Project, Will County, Illinois
Attachments: Standard Operating Procedure Section 7.pdf; Flow chart.pdf; Basic Steps.pdf; Sec_7
_verbage_table.pdf; NE_IL_County_&_Fed_Listed_Species.pdf; Website Breakdown.pdf;
When to contact FWS.pdf; BA Format and checklist.pdf

From: Pollack, Cathy [mailto:cathy_pollack@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, November 27, 2012 2:47 PM
To: Gallagher, Michael P. (VP Nuclear):(GenCo-Nuc)
Subject: Braidwood Stations 1 and 2 License Renewal Project, Will County, Illinois

Mr. Gallagher,

This office is in receipt of your letter dated November 9, 2012 requesting information regarding federally listed species in the vicinity of this proposed project. We have an on-line system for you to determine whether or not your proposed project may affect or have no effect on listed species. Please review the attached documents.

The first document provides directions on accessing our website. If, after your review of these documents along with the website, you need further information or clarification, feel free to call or email me.

Thank you,
Cathy Pollack

Cathy Pollack
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fish and Wildlife Biologist
1250 S. Grove, Suite 103
Barrington, Illinois 60010
847-381-2253, X28

Biological Evaluation – Braidwood Station

Executive Summary

Exelon Generation, LLC (Exelon Generation) plans to apply to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for renewal of the operating licenses for Braidwood Station (Braidwood) Units 1 and 2 in June 2013. The existing operating license for Unit 1 will expire on October 17, 2026, and the existing operating license for Unit 2 will expire on December 18, 2027. Renewed licenses would allow Braidwood Units 1 and 2 to operate until 2046 and 2047, respectively. The proposed action is the extensions by the NRC of the licenses for the two units at Braidwood.

The application for license renewal includes an environmental report (ER) that describes the site as well as the Braidwood facilities and operations. The ER also describes the potentially affected environment including aquatic resources and riparian communities, critical and important habitats, and endangered and threatened species. Extensive descriptions of the site, the facilities and operations, and the affected environment can be found in the Applicant's Environmental Report – Operating License Renewal Stage, Braidwood Station, which will be submitted to the NRC in June 2013. The contents of the Braidwood License Renewal ER were available to the analyst who prepared this biological evaluation.

Based on information regarding plant operations and the affected environment, analysts with expertise in specific subject matter areas and the National Environmental Policy Act have made conclusions regarding the potential effects of the continued operation of Braidwood on the affected environment. For protected species, biologists reviewed the state and federal protected species lists and compiled a list of state or federally endangered, threatened, or proposed species that have been reported in Will County (see ER Table 2.5-1). Biologists reviewed published habitat descriptions of all federally-listed species, and interviewed Exelon Generation biologists regarding occurrences of these species at Braidwood.

The Summary Table of Federally- Endangered or Threatened Species at the Braidwood Station, below, provides Exelon Generation's determination regarding the effect of continued operations on each species. The bases for these conclusions are provided in the accompanying text. Based on this review, and the fact that Braidwood operations do not now affect any protected species, that Braidwood is not proposing different operating parameters for the license renewal term, and that issuing a renewed license does not authorize construction, Exelon Generation believes that operation of the Braidwood Station during the terms of the renewed licenses is not likely to affect the sheepsnose mussel and would not adversely affect any other federally-listed species.

Exelon Generation provided a project description in its letter to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, dated November 9, 2012. Additional information is available in the ER. The nearest federally designated critical habitat, for the Hines' emerald dragonfly, is approximately 37 km (23 mi) northeast of Braidwood. No other USFWS-designated critical habitats occur in Will County.

Summary Table of Federally- Endangered or Threatened Species at the Braidwood Station		
SPECIES	FEDERAL STATUS	DETERMINATION
Indiana bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered	No effect
Eastern massasauga (rattlesnake) <i>Sistrurus catenatus catenatus</i>	Candidate	No effect
Snuffbox mussel <i>Epioblasma triquetra</i>	Endangered	No effect
Sheepnose mussel <i>Plethobasus cyphus</i>	Endangered	Not likely to adversely affect
Hines emerald dragonfly <i>Somatochlora hineana</i>	Endangered	No effect
Mead’s milkweed <i>Asclepias meadii</i>	Threatened	No effect
Leafy prairie clover <i>Dalea foliosa</i>	Endangered	No effect
Lakeside daisy <i>Hymenopsis herbacea</i>	Threatened	No effect
Eastern prairie fringed orchid <i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	Threatened	No effect

Introduction

Excluding the 2,537-acre cooling pond, most of the Braidwood site is occupied by power generating facilities, support/admin facilities, transmission facilities (switchyard, towers), utility rights-of-way, roads, and parking lots. Wildlife habitat is limited to several wooded parcels immediately adjacent to the plant, the forested margins of the cooling pond, and some islands within the cooling pond. However, these forested tracts are adjacent to active, brightly-lit industrial facilities and are criss-crossed by roads and transmission corridors. There is no high-quality wildlife habitat on the terrestrial portions of the Braidwood site, and species seen there are generally those regarded as “urban” or “suburban” wildlife, including white-tailed deer, Eastern gray squirrel, Eastern cottontail, Virginia opossum, Northern cardinal, American robin, and white-throated sparrow. The cooling pond is an artificial impoundment created from a former coal surface mine, and is stocked with a variety of warm and cool-water fishes. Braidwood withdraws cooling pond makeup water from, and discharges permitted effluents to, the Kankakee River. Both the sheepnose and snuffbox mussels have been recorded in the Kankakee River.

Species-specific Assessments

Indiana bat

Federally-endangered Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*) winter (hibernate) in caves and use a variety of habitats in summer, from pasturelands to forests. Summer roosts are typically in mature forests where dead trees, hollow trees, snags and live, older trees with peeling bark may be found. There is virtually no undisturbed natural habitat on the Braidwood property. There are no large blocks of mature forest on the property. The fact that there's no high-quality roost habitat coupled with the fact that Braidwood is a noisy (PA system, pumps, diesels, heavy equipment), lighted industrial facility means that Indiana bats are not likely to be found in the vicinity, except as transients moving between wintering and summering areas. Renewal of Braidwood's operating licenses will involve no new construction or land-disturbing activities. License renewal will not entail any change in plant operations or plant maintenance routines. There will be no change in the way wooded portions of the site are managed. Exelon Generation therefore concludes that renewal of the Braidwood operating licenses would have no effect on the Indiana bat.

Eastern massasauga (rattlesnake)

The Eastern massasauga (*Sistrurus catenatus catenatus*), a candidate for federal listing, is found from western New York state west to extreme northeastern Missouri. Once common across northern and central Illinois, it occurs now in only scattered, isolated populations in a handful of counties, including Will County. These small rattlesnakes are found in wet prairies, marshes, river and river bottoms in fall, winter, and spring, but may move to adjacent uplands in summer. Exelon Generation environmental personnel and contractors have never observed an Eastern massasauga on plant property. If any of these rattlesnakes are present, they would likely be found around the cooling pond and its islands, wildlife habitat created by Exelon Generation (formerly Commonwealth Edison) from a former strip mine and currently managed (primarily) as a waterfowl refuge by Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Renewal of Braidwood's operating licenses will involve no new construction or land-disturbing activities. Nor will license renewal entail any change in plant operations or plant maintenance routines. There are no plans to change the way the Braidwood cooling pond is managed during the terms of the renewed licenses. Exelon Generation therefore concludes that renewal of the Braidwood operating licenses would have no effect on the Eastern massasauga.

Snuffbox mussel

The federally-endangered snuffbox (*Epioblasma triquetra*) is a small, triangular freshwater mussel that lives in small to medium-sized creeks in areas with a swift current, but it is also found in some larger rivers. No live specimens have been collected from the Kankakee River since 1991, thus its status is uncertain. Even if small numbers of snuffbox survive in the Kankakee, the population is of "doubtful viability" according to the USFWS.

Exelon Generation replaced the open-flow blowdown discharge channel on the shore of the Kankakee River with a closed-flow pipe and diffuser system in 2010. Prior to construction, all unionids in the area that would be affected by construction were relocated. A total of 911 unionids moved, and no snuffbox mussels were found. The discharge pipe and diffuser were oriented so as to avoid areas known to harbor listed mussel species or known to contain high densities of unionids. Renewal of Braidwood's operating licenses will involve no new

construction at the intake or discharge locations, nor will it entail any changes in plant operations or maintenance procedures. The Braidwood discharge system meets state water quality (thermal) standards and affects less than an acre of the Kankakee River. Based on the fact that the Braidwood thermal discharge affects a very small area, that the USFWS believes the presence of snuffbox mussels in the Kankakee River is doubtful, and that no snuffbox mussels were among the 911 unionids collected in the vicinity of the Braidwood discharge in the Kankakee River in 2010. Exelon Generation concludes that operational impacts during the terms of the renewed licenses would have no effect on snuffbox mussels. However, Exelon Generation will survey the mussel population in the discharge area in 2016, as indicated in an Incidental Take Authorization issued to Braidwood by the Illinois DNR (December 17, 2009).

Sheepnose mussel

The federally-endangered sheepnose mussel (*Plethobasus cyphus*) is a medium-sized mussel that lives in shallow areas with moderate to swift currents flowing over coarse sand and gravel in larger rivers and streams. Although eliminated from channelized, upstream portions of the Kankakee River in Indiana, the population in the lower river, in Illinois, appears to be stable. In 2008 Exelon Generation collected one dead sheepnose mussel in the vicinity of the Braidwood discharge canal.

Exelon Generation replaced the open-flow blowdown discharge channel on the shore of the Kankakee River with a closed-flow pipe and diffuser system in 2010. The discharge pipe and diffuser were oriented so as to avoid areas known to harbor listed mussel species or known to contain high densities of unionids. Renewal of Braidwood's operating licenses will involve no new construction at the intake or discharge locations, nor will it entail any changes in plant operations or maintenance procedures. The Braidwood discharge system meets state water quality (thermal) standards and affects less than an acre of the Kankakee River. Based on the fact that the Braidwood thermal discharge affects a very small area, Exelon Generation concludes that operational impacts during the terms of the renewed licenses are not likely to have an adverse effect on any sheepnose mussel. However, Exelon Generation will survey the mussel population in the discharge area in 2016, as indicated in an Incidental Take Authorization issued to Braidwood by the Illinois DNR (December 17, 2009).

Hine's emerald dragonfly

The federally endangered Hine's emerald dragonfly (*Somatochlora hineana*) is found in fens (wetlands with alkaline water chemistry), spring-fed marshes and sedge meadows over dolomite bedrock in four Midwestern states: Wisconsin, Michigan, Illinois, and Missouri. These habitats do not occur on the Braidwood property. There are a handful of populations in Will County, all in state parks and forest preserves in the northeastern part of the county and all in the Des Plaines River basin. Renewal of Braidwood's operating licenses will involve no new construction or land-disturbing activities. Nor will license renewal entail any change in plant operations or plant maintenance routines. Nothing is planned during the terms of the renewed licenses that would impact special-status species in northeastern Will County or the Des Plaines River basin. Because the closest known population of Hine's emerald dragonfly is approximately 23 miles northeast of the Braidwood plant, and there is no preferred habitat on the Braidwood property, Exelon Generation concludes that renewal of Braidwood's operating licenses would not affect this species.

Mead's milkweed

Mead's milkweed (*Asclepias meadii*), federally listed as threatened, is a tallgrass prairie herb belonging to the milkweed family (*Asclepiadaceae*). It is found in moderately wet (mesic) to moderately dry (dry mesic) upland tallgrass prairie or glade/barren habitats with other plants that are adapted to cycles of drought and fire. Mead's milkweed is a long-lived perennial herb; studies suggest that it may take 15 years or more to mature from a germinating seed to a flowering plant. After maturing, it can persist indefinitely. Given that there are no tallgrass prairie or glade/barren habitats on the Braidwood property, and that fires are suppressed on the property, there is no reason to believe that this species is present. Moreover, no development or land-disturbing activities are envisioned during the terms of the renewed licenses that would affect this or any other rare plant species. Exelon Generation therefore concludes that renewal of Braidwood's operating licenses would not affect Mead's milkweed.

Leafy prairie-clover

Leafy prairie-clover (*Dalea foliosa*) is federally listed as endangered. In Illinois, it is found in prairie remnants along the Des Plaines River, in thin soils over limestone substrate (this kind of habitat is sometimes referred to as "dolomite prairie"). It favors sites with a wet spring and fall and a dry summer. Given that there is no dolomite prairie habitat on the Braidwood property, there is no reason to believe that this species is present. Moreover, no development or land-disturbing activities are envisioned during the renewed terms of the licenses that would affect this species. Exelon Generation therefore concludes that renewal of the Braidwood operating licenses would have no effect on leafy prairie-clover.

Lakeside daisy

The lakeside daisy (*Hymenopsis herbacea*), federally listed as threatened, is found in dry, rocky prairie grassland underlain by limestone (dolomite prairie). It requires open sites with full sun. Given that there is no dolomite prairie habitat on the Braidwood property, there is no reason to believe that this species is present. Moreover, no development or land-disturbing activities are envisioned over the terms of the renewed licenses that would affect this species. Exelon Generation therefore concludes that renewal of the Braidwood operating licenses would have no effect on the lakeside daisy.

Eastern prairie fringed orchid

The Eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*), federally listed as threatened, occurs in a wide variety of habitats, including mesic prairie, wetlands such as sedge meadows, marsh edges, and bogs. It requires full sun for optimum growth and flowering and a grassy habitat with little or no woody encroachment. Exelon Generation environmental personnel and contractors have never observed Eastern prairie fringed orchids on plant property. If any of these plants are present, they would likely be found around the cooling pond and its islands, wildlife habitat created by Exelon Generation (formerly Commonwealth Edison) from a former strip mine and currently managed (primarily) as a waterfowl refuge by Illinois DNR. Renewal of Braidwood's operating licenses will involve no new construction or land-disturbing activities. License renewal will not entail any change in plant operations or plant maintenance routines. There are no plans to change the way the Braidwood cooling pond is managed during the terms of the renewed licenses. Exelon Generation therefore concludes that renewal of the Braidwood operating licenses would have no effect on the Eastern prairie fringed orchid.