

# Special Status Species Correspondence

*Byron Station Environmental Report*

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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

November 09, 2012

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

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

Dear Mr. Rettig:

Exelon Generation, LLC (Exelon) plans to apply to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) for renewal of the operating licenses for Byron Station (Byron) Units 1 and 2, in June 2013. The existing operating license for Unit 1 will expire on October 31, 2024, and the existing operating license for Unit 2 will expire on November 6, 2026. Renewed licenses would allow Byron Units 1 and 2 to operate until 2044 and 2046, 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 Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding such effects in the vicinity of Byron.

### **Project Features**

Byron is in northern Illinois near the center of Ogle County, approximately 90 miles west-northwest of Chicago, 17 miles southwest of Rockford, and 3.7 miles south-southwest of the City of Byron, as shown in Figure 1.

The Byron site property includes approximately 1,782 acres, which consists of the main site area and a right-of-way (ROW) to the Rock River for the cooling tower makeup water intake and blowdown discharge pipelines. The main site area consists of approximately 1,398 acres while the water pipelines ROW consists of the remaining 384 acres. The site is situated on a topographic high in the Rock River Hill Country physiographic province, in an agricultural area.

The nuclear generating facilities at Byron are sited in the approximate center of the main site area and include the two reactor containment buildings and related structures, two natural draft cooling towers, a switchyard, administration buildings, warehouses, and other features. The cooling tower makeup water intake and blowdown discharge pipelines ROW runs from the northwest site boundary approximately 2 miles west to the Rock River. The Rock River is the source of the plant's makeup water and the receiving body for the cooling tower blowdown discharge, which is subject to limitations

established by National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit IL0048313.

Three 345-kilovolt (345-kV) electrical transmission line ROWs totaling an additional approximately 1,210 acres, shown on Figures 2 and 3, were constructed with the station to connect it to the electric grid and are considered to be within the scope of the license renewal project. One ROW runs north and then east from Byron approximately 30 miles to the Wempleton Transmission Substation, located approximately 7 miles northwest of Rockford, IL. A second ROW runs northeast from Byron for approximately 21 miles, to the Cherry Valley Transmission Substation. The third ROW goes directly south for a total length of 8.5 miles to its intersection with the Nelson to Cherry Valley transmission line, which existed before Byron was constructed. All three ROWs pass through primarily agricultural land with some areas of forest or lesser value land use categories. These ROWs are owned and maintained Commonwealth Edison Company (ComEd). In locations where a ROW passes through farmland, the land generally continues to be used as farmland.

### **Identification of Threatened and Endangered Species Resources**

In 2011, Exelon conducted mussel surveys in the Rock River up- and down-stream of the Byron intake/discharge pipelines to determine if any federally listed mussel species were present. No federally listed species was found during the survey. According to the USFWS database, there are no records of species that are candidates for federal listing or that are proposed for federal listing in Ogle or Winnebago Counties. Exelon is not aware of any other federally listed species being observed on the Byron site or along the associated ROWs.

The Byron 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 Byron Station; (2) the Byron Station Blowdown Area on Rock River; (3) the Byron Station to Cherry Valley Transmission Line, Segments 1 through 6; (4) the Byron South Transmission Line, Segments 1 and 2, and (5) the Byron to Wempleton Transmission Line, Segments 1 through 8. These attached database results for Byron 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 Byron 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 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 tower makeup water intake and blowdown discharge pipelines, would not adversely affect any species

Rettig - 3

(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 Byron 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 Byron license renewal application. Hence, in closing, we would appreciate receiving a response from you detailing such issues and information for the Byron site and the ROWs for the transmission line and cooling tower makeup water intake and blowdown discharge pipelines. We would also welcome your confirmation of our conclusion that Byron 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 Byron license renewal environmental report that will be submitted to the NRC as part of the Byron 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: Byron to Wempleton and Cherry Valley Transmission Line ROWs
- Figure 3: Byron South Transmission Line ROW
- EcoCAT Reports: (1) Byron Station
- (2) Byron Station Blowdown Area on Rock River
- (3) Byron Station to Cherry Valley Transmission Line, Segments 1 through 6
- (4) Byron Station South Transmission Line, Segments 1 and 2
- (5) Byron Station to Wempleton Transmission Line, Segments 1 through 8



**Exelon Generation**

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

November 09, 2012

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

**SUBJECT:** Exelon Generation, LLC – Byron Station Units 1 and 2 License Renewal Project. Request for Information on Listed Species and Sensitive Habitats – Ogle 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 Byron Station (Byron) Units 1 and 2, in June 2013. The existing operating license for Unit 1 will expire on October 31, 2024, and the existing operating license for Unit 2 will expire on November 6, 2026. Renewed licenses would allow Byron Units 1 and 2 to operate until 2044 and 2046, 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 Byron. Later, the NRC may also request an informal consultation with your office under Section 7 of the ESA (16 USC 1536(a)).

### **Project Features**

Byron is in northern Illinois near the center of Ogle County, approximately 90 miles west-northwest of Chicago, 17 miles southwest of Rockford, and 3.7 miles south-southwest of the City of Byron, as shown in Figure 1.

The Byron site property includes approximately 1,782 acres, which consists of the main site area and a right-of-way (ROW) to the Rock River for the cooling tower makeup water intake and blowdown discharge pipelines. The main site area consists of approximately 1,398 acres while the water pipelines ROW consists of the remaining 384 acres. The site is situated on a topographic high in the Rock River Hill Country physiographic province, in an agricultural area.

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Nelson - 3

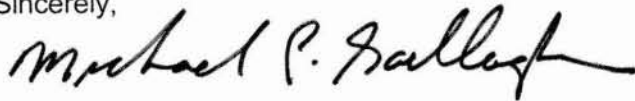
(or ecologically significant habitats) that is federally listed or proposed for federal listing as threatened or endangered.

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

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

Sincerely,

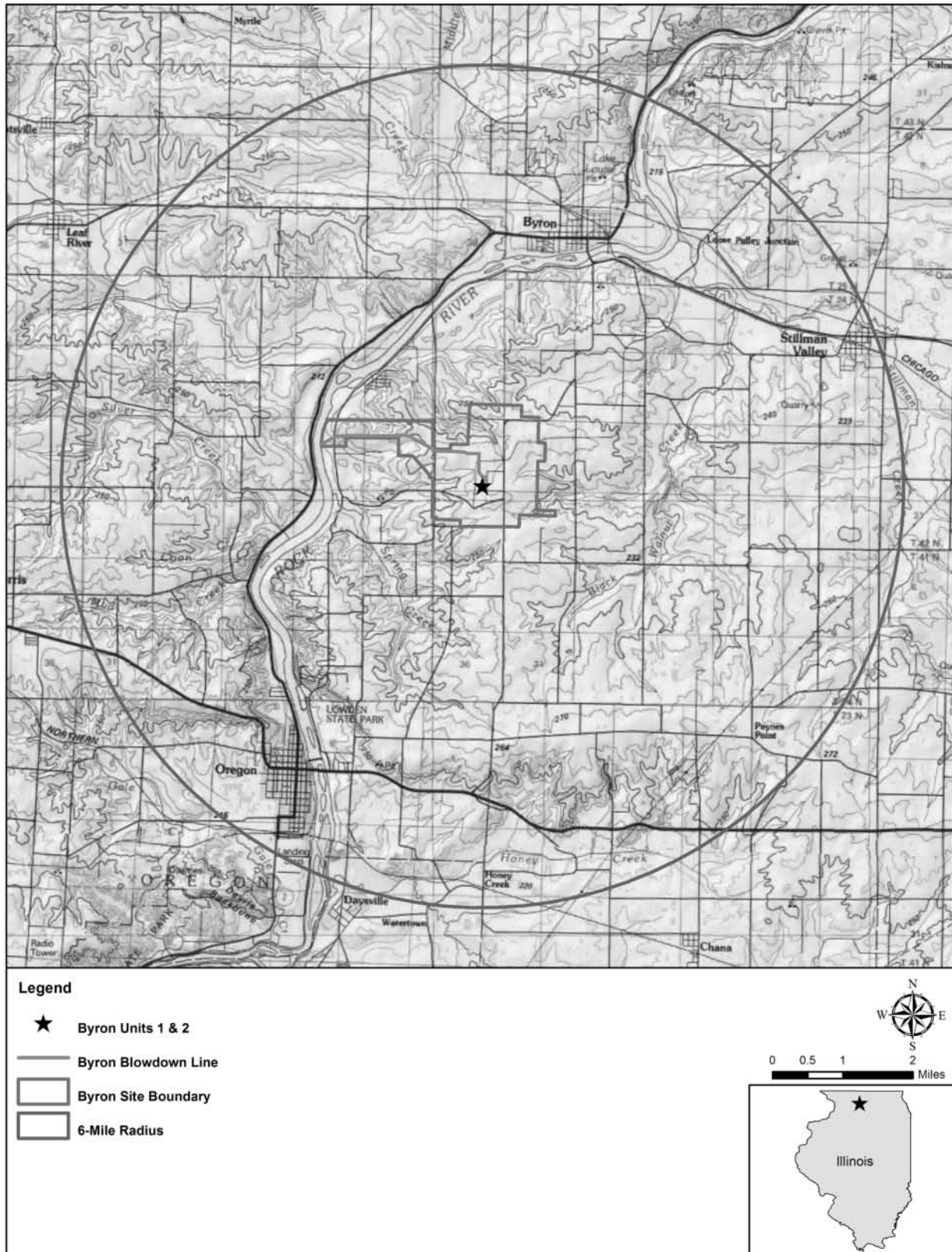


Michael P. Gallagher

Enclosures:

- Figure 1: Project Location Map
- Figure 2: Byron to Wempleton and Cherry Valley Transmission Line ROWs
- Figure 3: Byron South Transmission Line ROW
- EcoCAT Reports: (1) Byron Station
- (2) Byron Station Blowdown Area on Rock River
- (3) Byron Station to Cherry Valley Transmission Line, Segments 1 through 6
- (4) Byron Station South Transmission Line, Segments 1 and 2
- (5) Byron Station to Wempleton Transmission Line, Segments 1 through 8

Figure 1 Project Location Map











*Applicant:* Exelon Generation Company LLC  
*Contact:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210838  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Station property  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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:

- Byron Dragway Prairie INAI Site
- Commonwealth Edison Prairie INAI Site
- Jarrett Prairie INAI Site
- Byron Dragway Prairie Natural Heritage Landmark
- Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve
- Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)
- Redroot (*Ceanothus herbaceus*)

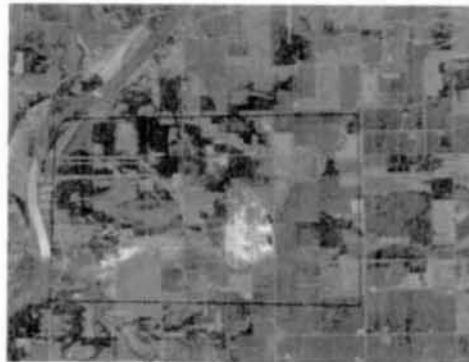
#### Location

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

*County:* Ogle

*Township, Range, Section:*

24N, 10E, 10	24N, 10E, 11
24N, 10E, 12	24N, 10E, 13
24N, 10E, 14	24N, 10E, 15
24N, 10E, 22	24N, 10E, 23
24N, 10E, 24	24N, 11E, 7
24N, 11E, 18	24N, 11E, 19



IDNR Project Number: 1210838

**IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**  
Impact Assessment Section  
217-785-5500  
Division of Ecosystems & Environment

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**Disclaimer**

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**Applicant:** Exelon Generation Company LLC  
**Contact:** Robert J Tarr  
**Address:** 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

**IDNR Project #:** 1305771  
**Date:** 10/30/2012

**Project:** Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
**Address:** (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Blowdown Area on River  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

**Description:** Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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:

Byron Dragway Prairie INAI Site  
Commonwealth Edison Prairie INAI Site  
Jarrett Prairie INAI Site  
Byron Dragway Prairie Natural Heritage Landmark  
Jarrett Prairie Nature Preserve  
Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)  
Downy Yellow Painted Cup (*Castilleja sessiliflora*)  
Prairie Bush Clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*)  
Woolly Milkweed (*Asclepias lanuginosa*)

#### Location

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

**County:** Ogle

**Township, Range, Section:**

24N, 10E, 1	24N, 10E, 2
24N, 10E, 3	24N, 10E, 9
24N, 10E, 10	24N, 10E, 11
24N, 10E, 12	24N, 10E, 14
24N, 10E, 15	24N, 10E, 16
24N, 11E, 6	25N, 10E, 35



IDNR Project Number: 1305771

25N, 10E, 36            25N, 11E, 31  
25N, 11E, 32

**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:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210840  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Cherry Valley Transmission Segment  
1  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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:

Commonwealth Edison Prairie INAI Site

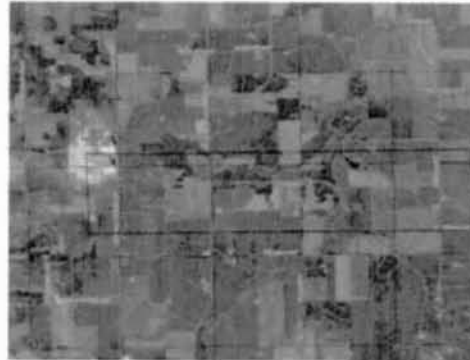
#### Location

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

*County:* Ogle

*Township, Range, Section:*

24N, 10E, 13	24N, 10E, 24
24N, 11E, 15	24N, 11E, 16
24N, 11E, 17	24N, 11E, 18
24N, 11E, 19	24N, 11E, 20
24N, 11E, 21	24N, 11E, 22



#### **IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**

Impact Assessment Section

217-785-5500

Division of Ecosystems & Environment



IDNR Project Number: 1210840

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**Applicant:** Exelon Generation Company LLC  
**Contact:** Robert J Tarr  
**Address:** 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

**IDNR Project #:** 1210841  
**Date:** 03/16/2012

**Project:** Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
**Address:** (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Cherry Valley Transmission Segment  
2  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

**Description:** Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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:

Beach Cemetery Prairie INAI Site  
Beach Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve

#### Location

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

**County:** Ogle

**Township, Range, Section:**

24N, 11E, 13	24N, 11E, 14
24N, 11E, 15	24N, 11E, 22
24N, 11E, 23	24N, 11E, 24
42N, 1E, 20	42N, 1E, 29
42N, 1E, 30	42N, 1E, 31
42N, 1E, 32	



#### **IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**

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



IDNR Project Number: 1210841

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*Applicant:* Exelon Generation Company LLC  
*Contact:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210842  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Cherry Valley Transmission Segment  
3  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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:

Beach Cemetery Prairie INAI Site  
Beach Cemetery Prairie Nature Preserve

#### Location

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

*County:* Ogle

*Township, Range, Section:*

42N, 1E, 10	42N, 1E, 11
42N, 1E, 14	42N, 1E, 15
42N, 1E, 16	42N, 1E, 20
42N, 1E, 21	42N, 1E, 22
42N, 1E, 28	42N, 1E, 29
42N, 1E, 32	



#### **IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**

Impact Assessment Section

217-785-5500

Division of Ecosystems & Environment

IDNR Project Number: 1210842

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*Applicant:* Exelon Generation Company LLC  
*Contact:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210843  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Cherry Valley Transmission Segment  
4  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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:

Winquist Prairie INAI Site  
Winquist Prairie Natural Heritage Landmark  
Prairie Bush Clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*)

#### Location

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

*County:* Ogle

*Township, Range, Section:*

42N, 1E, 1                      42N, 1E, 2  
42N, 1E, 11                    42N, 1E, 12  
42N, 1E, 14                    42N, 2E, 6

*County:* Winnebago

*Township, Range, Section:*

43N, 1E, 36                    43N, 2E, 31



IDNR Project Number: 1210843

**IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**

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*Applicant:* Exelon Generation Company LLC  
*Contact:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210845  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Cherry Valley Transmission Segment  
5  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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:

- Kishwaukee River INAI Site
- Kishwaukee River South Branch INAI Site
- Wiquist Prairie INAI Site
- Wiquist Prairie Natural Heritage Landmark
- Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)
- Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)
- Gravel Chub (*Erimystax x-punctatus*)
- Prairie Bush Clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*)

#### Location

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

*County:* Ogle

*Township, Range, Section:*

42N, 2E, 5                      42N, 2E, 6

*County:* Winnebago

*Township, Range, Section:*

43N, 2E, 21                    43N, 2E, 22

43N, 2E, 23                    43N, 2E, 26

43N, 2E, 27                    43N, 2E, 28





IDNR Project Number: 1210845

43N, 2E, 29            43N, 2E, 30  
43N, 2E, 31            43N, 2E, 32  
43N, 2E, 33

**IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**

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*Applicant:* Exelon Generation Company LLC  
*Contact:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210846  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Cherry Valley Transmission Segment  
6  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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:

Kishwaukee River INAI Site  
Kishwaukee River South Branch INAI Site  
Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)  
Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)  
Gravel Chub (*Erimystax x-punctatus*)  
Ground Juniper (*Juniperus communis*)

#### Location

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

*County:* Winnebago

*Township, Range, Section:*

43N, 2E, 10	43N, 2E, 11
43N, 2E, 14	43N, 2E, 15
43N, 2E, 22	43N, 2E, 23
43N, 2E, 26	43N, 2E, 27





IDNR Project Number: 1210846

**IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**

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**Applicant:** Exelon Generation Company LLC  
**Contact:** Robert J Tarr  
**Address:** 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

**IDNR Project #:** 1210870  
**Date:** 03/16/2012

**Project:** Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
**Address:** (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, South Transmission Segment 1  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

**Description:** Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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:

Commonwealth Edison Prairie INAI Site

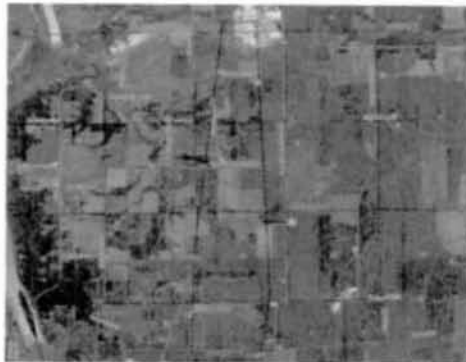
#### Location

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

**County:** Ogle

**Township, Range, Section:**

23N, 10E, 1	24N, 10E, 13
24N, 10E, 24	24N, 10E, 25
24N, 10E, 35	24N, 10E, 36



**IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**  
Impact Assessment Section  
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Division of Ecosystems & Environment

IDNR Project Number: 1210870

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*Applicant:* Exelon Generation Company LLC  
*Contact:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210872  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, South Transmission Segment 2  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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:

- Kyte River INAI Site
- Kyte River Bottoms INAI Site
- Pine Rock INAI Site
- Kyte River Bottoms Land And Water Reserve
- Pine Rock Nature Preserve
- Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)
- Gravel Chub (*Erimystax x-punctatus*)

#### Location

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

*County:* Ogle

*Township, Range, Section:*

23N, 10E, 1	23N, 10E, 12
23N, 10E, 13	23N, 10E, 24
23N, 10E, 25	23N, 10E, 36
23N, 11E, 6	23N, 11E, 7
23N, 11E, 18	23N, 11E, 19
23N, 11E, 30	23N, 11E, 31



IDNR Project Number: 1210872

**IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**

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Division of Ecosystems & Environment

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*Applicant:* Exelon Generation Company LLC  
*Contact:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210847  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Wempleton Transmission Segment 1  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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

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

Commonwealth Edison Prairie INAI Site  
Black Sandshell (*Ligumia recta*)  
Redroot (*Ceanothus herbaceus*)

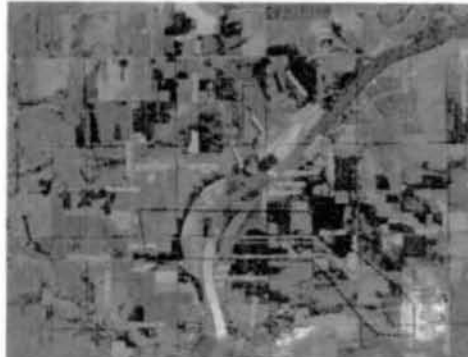
#### Location

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

*County:* Ogle

*Township, Range, Section:*

24N, 10E, 9	24N, 10E, 10
24N, 10E, 11	24N, 10E, 13
24N, 10E, 14	24N, 10E, 15
24N, 10E, 16	24N, 10E, 24



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IDNR Project Number: 1210847

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*Applicant:* Exelon Generation Company LLC  
*Contact:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210849  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Wempleton Transmission Segment 2  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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:* Ogle

*Township, Range, Section:*

24N, 10E, 4            24N, 10E, 9  
24N, 10E, 16        25N, 10E, 28  
25N, 10E, 33



#### **IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**

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



IDNR Project Number: 1210849

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**Applicant:** Exelon Generation Company LLC  
**Contact:** Robert J Tarr  
**Address:** 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

**IDNR Project #:** 1210852  
**Date:** 03/16/2012

**Project:** Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
**Address:** (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Wempleton Transmission Segment 3  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

**Description:** Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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.

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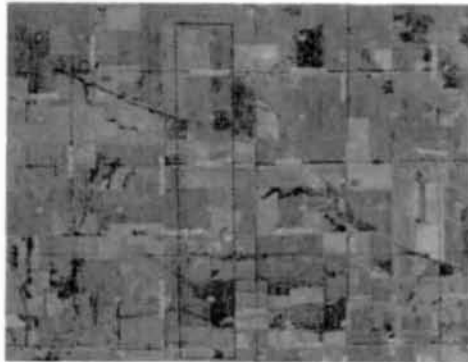
#### Location

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

**County:** Ogle

**Township, Range, Section:**

25N, 10E, 9                      25N, 10E, 16  
25N, 10E, 21                  25N, 10E, 28  
25N, 10E, 33



#### **IL Department of Natural Resources Contact**

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

IDNR Project Number: 1210852

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*Applicant:* Exelon Generation Company LLC  
*Contact:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210854  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Wempleton Transmission Segment 4  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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

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#### Location

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*County:* Ogle

*Township, Range, Section:*

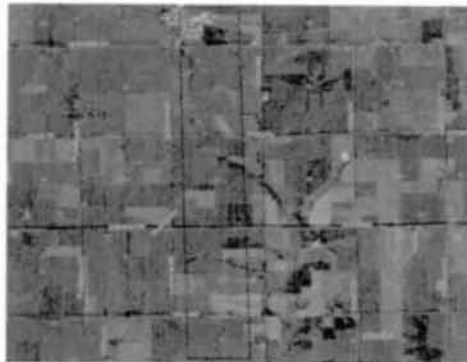
25N, 10E, 4                      25N, 10E, 9

*County:* Winnebago

*Township, Range, Section:*

26N, 10E, 21                      26N, 10E, 28

26N, 10E, 33



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Impact Assessment Section

217-785-5500

Division of Ecosystems & Environment

IDNR Project Number: 1210854

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*Applicant:* Exelon Generation Company LLC  
*Contact:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210856  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Wempleton Transmission Segment 5  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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

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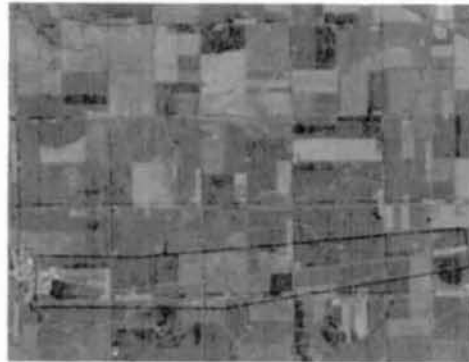
#### Location

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

*County:* Winnebago

*Township, Range, Section:*

26N, 10E, 21	26N, 10E, 22
26N, 10E, 23	26N, 10E, 24
26N, 10E, 25	26N, 10E, 26
26N, 10E, 27	26N, 10E, 28
26N, 11E, 19	



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IDNR Project Number: 1210856

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**Applicant:** Exelon Generation Company LLC  
**Contact:** Robert J Tarr  
**Address:** 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

**IDNR Project #:** 1210860  
**Date:** 03/16/2012

**Project:** Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
**Address:** (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Wempleton Transmission Segment 6  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

**Description:** Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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

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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:** Winnebago

**Township, Range, Section:**

26N, 11E, 2	26N, 11E, 3
26N, 11E, 10	26N, 11E, 11
26N, 11E, 14	26N, 11E, 15
26N, 11E, 16	26N, 11E, 17
26N, 11E, 19	26N, 11E, 20
26N, 11E, 21	26N, 11E, 22



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Division of Ecosystems & Environment

IDNR Project Number: 1210860

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*Applicant:* Exelon Generation Company LLC  
*Contact:* Robert J Tarr  
*Address:* 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

*IDNR Project #:* 1210864  
*Date:* 03/16/2012

*Project:* Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
*Address:* (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Wempleton Transmission Segment 7  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

*Description:* Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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

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#### Location

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*County:* Winnebago

*Township, Range, Section:*

26N, 11E, 1	26N, 11E, 2
26N, 11E, 3	27N, 11E, 22
27N, 11E, 23	27N, 11E, 24
27N, 11E, 25	27N, 11E, 26
27N, 11E, 27	27N, 11E, 34
27N, 11E, 35	27N, 11E, 36



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217-785-5500  
Division of Ecosystems & Environment

IDNR Project Number: 1210864

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**Applicant:** Exelon Generation Company LLC  
**Contact:** Robert J Tarr  
**Address:** 200 Exelon Way  
Kennett Square, PA 19348

**IDNR Project #:** 1210866  
**Date:** 03/16/2012

**Project:** Renewal of Facility Operating Licenses by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
**Address:** (NRC) for Byron Generating Station, Units 1 and 2, Wempleton Transmission Segment 8  
4450 N German Church Road, Byron

**Description:** Exelon Generation Company LLC seeks renewal of the NRC operating licenses for Byron 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.

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#### Location

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**County:** Winnebago

**Township, Range, Section:**

27N, 11E, 11	27N, 11E, 12
27N, 11E, 13	27N, 11E, 14
27N, 11E, 23	27N, 11E, 24



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217-785-5500  
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IDNR Project Number: 1210866

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**Ranek, Nancy L.:(GenCo-Nuc)**

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**From:** Duyvejonck, Jon [jon\_duyvejonck@fws.gov]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 06, 2012 9:17 AM  
**To:** Ranek, Nancy L.:(GenCo-Nuc)  
**Subject:** Byron Station License Renewal

Nancy, The Service has reviewed the information provided in your letter of November 9, 2012 regarding the license renewal for the Byron, IL nuclear generating station. Based on this information and the fact that no changes in the operation are proposed, we have no comments to offer at this time.

--

*Jon Duyvejonck*  
*US Fish and Wildlife Service*  
*Rock Island Field Office*  
*tel. 309/757-5800, ex 207*

## **Biological Evaluation – Byron 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 Byron Station (Byron) Units 1 and 2 in June 2013. The existing operating license for Unit 1 will expire on October 31, 2024, and the existing operating license for Unit 2 will expire on November 6, 2026. Renewed licenses would allow Byron Units 1 and 2 to operate until 2044 and 2046, respectively. The proposed action is the extensions by the NRC of the licenses for the two units at Byron.

The application for license renewal includes an environmental report (ER) that describes the site as well as the Byron 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, Byron Station, which will be submitted to the NRC in June 2013. The contents of the Byron 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 Byron 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 Ogle 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 Byron.

The Summary Table of Federally- Endangered or Threatened Species at the Byron 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 Byron operations do not now affect any protected species, that Byron 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 Byron Station during the terms of the renewed licenses is not likely to adversely affect any 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. As indicated in the Summary Table below, Federally- Endangered or Threatened Species reported in Ogle County are limited to the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*), prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*), and Eastern prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera leucophaea*). Federally designated critical habitat for the Indiana bat does not exist in Ogle County. Critical habitat has not been federally designated for the prairie bush clover nor the Eastern prairie fringed orchid.

<b>Summary Table of Federally- Endangered or Threatened Species at the Byron Station</b>		
<b>SPECIES</b>	<b>FEDERAL STATUS</b>	<b>DETERMINATION</b>
Indiana bat <i>Myotis sodalis</i>	Endangered	No effect
Prairie bush clover <i>Lespedeza leptostachya</i>	Threatened	No effect
Eastern prairie fringed orchid <i>Platanthera leucophaea</i>	Threatened	No effect

### Introduction

Most of the 1,782-acre Byron site is occupied by power generating facilities, support/admin facilities, transmission facilities (switchyard, towers), utility and pipeline rights-of-way, roads, and parking lots. Approximately 750 acres of the site are leased to local farmers for agriculture. Wildlife habitat at the Byron site is limited to scattered wooded areas, meadows, and grassland parcels. The existing meadows and grassland areas have been impacted by various historical activities and are not remnants of undisturbed prairie habitat. In addition, the wooded areas, meadows, and grassland parcels are near active, brightly-lit industrial facilities and are criss-crossed by roads, transmission corridors, and the intake/discharge pipeline corridor. There is no high-quality wildlife habitat on the Byron site, and animal species seen there are those typical of northwestern Illinois, such as the raccoon, Virginia opossum, common crow, American robin, and white-throated sparrow. Byron withdraws makeup water for the circulating water system from, and discharges permitted effluents to, the Rock River. No federally listed fish or mussel species is believed to occur in the Rock River in the vicinity of the Byron site.

### 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 no undisturbed natural habitat on the Byron property. There are no large blocks of mature forest on the property. The fact that there is no high-quality roost habitat coupled with the fact that Byron 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 Byron’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 Byron operating license would have no effect on the Indiana bat.

#### Prairie bush clover

Prairie bush clover (*Lespedeza leptostachya*), federally listed as threatened, is typically found only in open, prairie-like areas with moderately damp to dry soils. The open areas on the Byron site are not optimal habitat for the prairie bush clover. Exelon Generation environmental personnel and contractors

have never observed this species on plant property. Renewal of Byron'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. Exelon Generation therefore concludes that renewal of the Byron operating license would have no effect on the prairie bush clover.

#### **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. Optimal habitat for the Eastern prairie fringed orchids does not exist on the Byron site, and Exelon Generation environmental personnel and contractors have never observed Eastern prairie fringed orchids on plant property. Renewal of Byron'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. Exelon Generation therefore concludes that renewal of the Byron operating license would have no effect on the Eastern prairie fringed orchid.

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