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Region III Office of Public Affairs
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NRC FINDS PERFORMANCE 'ACCEPTABLE'
AT BRAIDWOOD NUCLEAR POWER STATION IN LATEST REVIEW

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has found that safety performance remains acceptable in the NRC's latest plant performance review at the Braidwood nuclear power plant, located in Braidwood, Illinois.

The review covers August 30, 1997, through January 31.

Geoffrey Grant, NRC Region III Division Director, in a letter to Commonwealth Edison Company, said, "Braidwood's overall performance was acceptable. Normally, effective management oversight was evident. A major accomplishment during this [review] period was the Unit 1 steam generator replacement and refueling outage with credit due to lessons learned from Byron and exceptional management support. It crossed over all functional areas and was completed in a record 72 days of a planned 78-day outage."

"Configuration control problems still arise even though your staff has implemented corrective actions," Mr. Grant continued. "The material condition of the plant continues to be very good which is a credit to good maintenance and engineering support. Overall performance in the area of plant support also continued to be very good and the programs were managed well. Some minor problems were experienced in the areas of radiation protection, security, and fire protection but none were programmatic. Emergency preparedness continued to be effectively implemented."

The text of the plant performance review letter is available from the NRC Region III Office of Public Affairs and on the NRC web site at: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/ppr>.

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

Plant performance reviews are an interim measure NRC is utilizing to monitor nuclear power plant safety. The agency began using it for this purpose after suspending the Systematic Assessment of License Performance (SALP) process until a

new assessment program is developed. Previously, SALP reports were issued every 12 to 24 months.

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

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