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NRC Approves Power Uprates for Braidwood and Byron Nuclear Power Plants in Illinois

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a request by Exelon Generation Company, LLC to increase the generating capacity of the Braidwood and Byron Nuclear Power Stations by 1.63 percent for each reactor.

The NRC staff determined that Exelon could safely increase the reactors' output primarily through more accurate means of measuring feedwater flow. NRC staff also reviewed the company's evaluations showing the plant's design can accommodate the increased power level.

Braidwood Station is located in Braceville, Ill., about 20 miles southwest of Joliet. Byron Station is located in Byron, 17 miles southwest of Rockford. Each station has two pressurized water reactors. The power uprate will increase each station's total generating capacity from approximately 2,350 to 2,390 megawatts electric. Exelon intends to implement the uprates in February.

The NRC's safety evaluation of the plant's proposed power uprate focused on several areas, including the nuclear steam supply systems, instrumentation and control systems, electrical systems, accident evaluations, radiological consequences, fire protection, operations and training, and technical specification changes.

The NRC published a notice about the power uprate application in the [Federal Register](#) on Dec. 6, 2011. The agency's evaluation of the power uprate will be available through the NRC's [ADAMS](#) electronic document database by entering Accession Number ML13281A000.