

N56. HOT SPOT REDUCTION PROGRAM at BRAIDWOOD

The radiation protection staff at Commonwealth Edison Company's Braidwood Nuclear Generating Station has developed a program to identify and track radiation hot spots. If cost effective, corrective actions are taken to eliminate or reduce these elevated dose rates.

The program starts by the identification of hot spots by radiation protection technicians during routine surveys. This data and information are entered into a computer data base for trending and analysis.

Adverse trends are investigated to determine the cause for the increased radiation levels. Discussions are held with appropriate plant personnel and corrective actions are proposed. Operation or maintenance personnel, acting on recommended corrective actions of the technical staff, then perform flush, shielding, or, if possible, other steps to reduce the dose rates. As a preventative measure, some flushing operations have been incorporated into some surveillance procedures.

Following implementation of the corrective action, the hot spot location is routinely surveyed by radiation protection technicians. This survey allows follow-up on the corrective action to determine effectiveness and to predict possible reoccurrence of the hot spot.

For further information on Braidwood's Hot Spot Reduction Program, contact Jeff Burkett or Eileen Roche in the Radiological Protection Department at (815) 458-2801.

For more, see the Nuclear Professional, Journal of the National Academy for Nuclear Training, Spring 1990.