



Electricity Volume 226 March 22, 2011

Exelon Nuclear, which owns 20 percent of U.S. nuclear power by capacity, is spending more than \$3.65 billion to squeeze as much power as possible out of its existing nuclear fleet through a "power uprate" program.

The uprates, which are expected to result in 1,300 to 1,500 megawatts of total additional generating capacity within eight years, will give Exelon enough new generating capacity to match that of a new nuclear plant. Pushing more power out of existing nuclear plants has been a key component of Exelon's business strategy and that of other nuclear operators. Compared with the cost of building a new nuclear plant at more than \$130 per megawatt-hour (which hasn't happened in decades), nuclear uprates cost \$40 to \$91 per megawatt-hour, according to Exelon.

In Illinois, new uprate programs are planned or under way at Byron, Braidwood, Dresden, LaSalle and Quad Cities, plants that have already undergone uprates. Elsewhere in the country, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is expecting more than 30 applications for power uprates at nuclear plants during the next five years.

Though nuclear operators have engaged in increased output programs since 1977, until the early 2000s, those increases hovered near 5 percent increased capacity. It wasn't until 2001 that such operators began gaining approval to stretch capacity by 15 percent to 20 percent, programs that required extensive upgrades and new equipment to meet NRC approval

Exelon's uprate projects have always had off ramps if the economics don't support individual projects. If an uprate project is not economical, whether that's due to natural gas prices or potential increased regulation, we will evaluate it at the appropriate time and proceed accordingly.

While uprate projects at Dresden, Quad Cities and LaSalle are approved and under way, Exelon's planned uprates for Braidwood and Byron have not yet been submitted for NRC approval, along with an additional uprate planned for LaSalle. Exelon has not yet decided if it will pursue an approved uprate at Clinton, the company said.

"With uprates, they are going to be putting a lot of money into these plants, and they owe it not just to their stockholders, but to the public, to examine these things," said Robert Rosner, senior adviser to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences' Global Nuclear Future Initiative. "Nothing will be as normal (after Japan). I think it will slow the uprate process down."

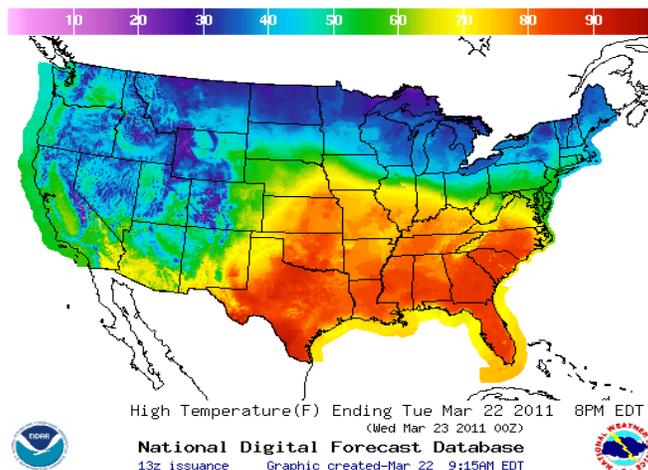
Electricity Pricing Areas – On Peak - Month – Apr 2011

	Mar 22, 2011	Per kWh
Cinergy	Hub Peak Swap Monthly	\$.03613
PJM Hub	Electricity Monthly	\$.04610
PJM	No. Illinois Peak LMP	\$.03588
PJM	Western Peak LMP	\$.04610

ComEd Average Day Ahead LMP Electric Price

Time Period	Average per Kwh
Apr 1 – Apr 30	\$.02911
May 1- May 31	\$.03389
Jun 1- Jun 30	\$.04184
Jul 1 - Jul 31	\$.04741
Aug 1 –Aug 31	\$.04628
Sep 1 - Sep 30	\$.02934
Oct 1 - Oct 31	\$.02702
Nov 1 - Nov 30	\$.02778
Dec 1 – Dec 31	\$.03545
Jan 1 –Jan 31, 2011	\$.03871
Feb 1 – Feb 28	\$.03581
March 1 thru Mar 21	\$.03550

Weather - Tue: Showers and thundershowers likely. High 44F. Winds ENE at 20 to 30 mph. Chance of rain 90%. **Wed:** Showers then variable clouds during the afternoon with still a chance of showers. High 49F. Winds N at 10 to 20 mph. Chance of rain 60%. **Thu:** Clouds giving way to sun . Highs in the mid 30s and lows in the upper 20s. **Fri:** Mostly Cloudy. Highs in the mid 30s and lows in the low 30s. **Sat:** Mix of rain and snow showers. Highs in the upper 30s and lows in the low 30s.



Extended Temperature Forecast: Chicago Area

Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
43 - 44	31 - 49	29 - 35	31 - 36	30 - 38