

# [***Illinois Clean Energy Legislation Spurs Exelon Generation to Fill 650 Jobs, Invest $300 Million in Capital Projects***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:63SD-0JX1-F0YC-N3MT-00000-00&context=1516831)

Impact Financial News

September 30, 2021 Thursday

Copyright 2021 Impact Media Limited All Rights Reserved



**Length:** 708 words

**Body**

Chicago: Exelon Corporation (EXCU) has issued the following press release:

Now that the Illinois General Assembly has passed sweeping clean energy legislation preserving its nuclear plants, Exelon Generation is moving quickly to fill 650 vacant positions across the state and jumpstart more than $300 million in capital projects over the next five years at its Illinois nuclear stations to continue its legacy of safety and reliability.

“With this landmark legislation in place, we are moving quickly to restaff and refuel all of our nuclear plants for 24/7 operation, producing carbon-free, baseload electricity for more than 10 million homes and businesses,” said Dave Rhoades, Exelon Generation ’ s Chief Nuclear Officer. “These plants are not only important for the clean energy they produce, but they are massive economic engines for their local communities, contributing more than $1.6 billion to Illinois ’ GDP each year. ”

Byron Station began refueling Unit 1 after Gov. J.B Pritzker signed the clean energy legislation. While the nuclear support provision represents less than 20 percent of the cost of the overall legislation in the coming years, it has an outsized impact on the state ’ s climate and economic goals. Saving the plants preserves two-thirds of the state ’ s clean energy, avoids a 70 percent rise in ***emissions***, protects 28,000 direct and indirect jobs, and prevents a $480 million increase in annual energy prices for consumers.

Photos and B-Roll from Byron ’ s refueling outage can be found HERE.

With the legislation having taken effect, Byron Station plans to invest more than $140 million into the plant in the next five years on projects overhauling a main generator, replacing large transformers, upgrading a fiber optic control system and replacing various pumps, motors and piping in the plant. Most of the projects will occur during refueling outages starting next year that will include more than 1,500 electricians, pipe fitters, welders, carpenters and other tradespeople coming to Byron from across Illinois to perform the work.

“We ’ re incredibly pleased to see all the union contract workers at Byron Station helping the full-time employees refuel Unit 1,” said Byron Mayor John Rickard. “It would have been terrible for the environment and devastating for our community had the plant been allowed to shut down. We ’ re relieved the plant gets to continue supporting our community with jobs, philanthropy and tax funding for our schools and essential services, while producing clean energy at a time when clean energy is needed more than ever. ”

Dresden ’ s Unit 2 refueling outage will occur in November, and the station has nearly $170 million in capital projects planned over the next five years, including upgrades to six feedwater heat exchange vessels, significant refurbishment of a main generator, electrical component overhauls, replacement of closed cooling piping and revamping nuclear instrumentation circuit components. As with Byron, the work on these projects will be performed during refueling outages by union personnel.

“Exelon refueling outages put thousands of people to work in Illinois, providing jobs to skilled local and regional union and tradespeople,” said Terry McGoldrick, President and Business Manager of IBEW Local 15. “Keeping these plants open was the right decision, and I ’ m pleased the General Assembly made this investment in the future of our workforce, our communities and our nuclear plants. ”

Byron and Dresden will also soon begin the first of multiple new training classes for dozens of licensed operators who will become the next generation of employees operating the plants and helping to keep our state ’ s air clean.

People interested in applying for positions at Exelon Generation can visit the careers page on Exeloncorp.com and search for nuclear.

Exelon ’ s Illinois nuclear fleet produces more than 50 percent of the state ’ s electricity and nearly 90 percent of its carbon-free power. The fleet includes Braidwood Generating Station in Will County, Byron Generating Station in Ogle County, Clinton Power Station in DeWitt County, Dresden Generating Station in Grundy County, LaSalle County Generating Station and Quad Cities Generating Station in Rock Island County.

**Load-Date:** October 5, 2021

**End of Document**