

NRC renews operating licenses for Susquehanna Nuclear plant

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has approved a 20-year extension of the operating licenses for both reactors at the Susquehanna plant. The license for Unit 1 has been extended to 2042; the license for Unit 2 has been extended to 2044.

“We’re pleased that the NRC continues to express confidence in our commitment to safely operate and maintain the plant for many years to come,” said Tim Rausch, chief nuclear officer for PPL Susquehanna. “Our employees have certainly demonstrated that ability through the safe, reliable and record-setting operation of the plant.”

The decision by the NRC to extend the licenses is based on thorough safety and environmental reviews of the application PPL submitted in September 2006. The NRC reviewed thousands of pages documenting safety and environmental studies, and programs and processes for managing equipment.

The NRC review process also included a series of public meetings, on-site inspections, written requests for extra information, and a review by the Advisory

Committee on Reactor Safeguards, which is an independent body of nuclear technical experts that advises the NRC commissioners.

After three years of intensive review, the NRC concluded that no safety or environmental concerns would prevent license renewal and that PPL had effectively demonstrated the ability to manage the effects of aging on plant equipment and systems.

“The \$18.2 million PPL invested in this effort is an economical way to ensure the continued safe and reliable supply of electricity for homes and businesses throughout the region,” Rausch said.

“Renewal of the licenses also means PPL Susquehanna will continue to provide good-paying jobs and a high level of community involvement and support,” he said. “We are very grateful for the community support we receive, and we will continue to earn that trust and support by operating the plant safely and reliably for many years to come.”

Electricity generation record set in 2009

For the second year in a row, the Susquehanna plant has set a plant record for the amount of electricity generated.

The plant safely and reliably generated 19,492,431 megawatt-hours in 2009, beating the previous record of 19,046,288 megawatt-hours set in 2008. That’s enough to power about 2 million typical homes.

Unit 1 at the plant also set its own generation record in 2009, producing 10,488,428 megawatt-hours and beating its previous record of 9,463,272 megawatt-hours set in 2007.

“Our dedicated employees, who are committed to safely and reliably operating and maintaining the Susquehanna plant, are responsible for this achievement,” said Jeff Helsel, Susquehanna plant manager. “It’s a tribute to their hard work and skill.”

The Unit 2 reactor at Susquehanna ended a PPL-record 723 days of continuous operation when it shut down for refueling and maintenance in April 2009. Only one other U.S. nuclear plant has ever generated electricity for more consecutive days. The Unit 1 reactor, which generated electricity continuously throughout 2009, has been operating for more than 515 days since its last refueling and maintenance outage in 2008.



As part of PPL’s continuing support of the McBride Memorial Library in Berwick, a check for \$8,000 was presented in January. It included a payment toward PPL’s \$35,000 pledge to the library’s capital campaign and a donation to its annual operating budget. Attending the check presentation ceremony were (left to right) Teri MacBride, PPL’s regional community relations director; John Arndt, library board member and treasurer; Joe Scopelliti, PPL’s Susquehanna community relations manager; Richard Miller, director of Library Services; and Alice Zaikoski, director of Library Staff and Circulation.



Susquehanna Riverlands offers hands-on environmental education

These are some obvious benefits from having a power plant and environmental preserve around. Sure, PPL's Susquehanna nuclear plant makes electricity, providing power for almost 2 million homes. PPL also is one of the larger employers in the area, adding thousands of jobs to the local economy. And PPL's Susquehanna Riverlands and Wetlands environmental preserves provide recreation opportunities for thousands of visitors each year.

But there is a less obvious benefit: environmental education.

All nuclear power plants are required to monitor for environmental impacts around the plant. Monitoring at the Susquehanna plant is done by environmental scientists working for an independent company called Ecology III. But PPL and EIII have gone beyond simply complying with regulations. EIII scientists not only monitor the area, but also engage in original research projects.

Scientists at EIII have published about 100 studies on the ecology along the Susquehanna River, looking at things such as water quality, fish populations and the impact of invasive species like purple loosestrife, Asian clams and rusty crayfish.

As a result, the section of the river and the land surrounding the plant is among the best-studied in Pennsylvania. The base of knowledge is so considerable that EIII scientist Brian Mangan said, "We have accumulated a database for this area that is regarded by many to be authoritative concerning the North Branch of the Susquehanna."

After nearly two decades working as an environmental consultant for PPL at EIII, Mangan became a professor of environmental science at King's College in Wilkes-Barre in 2000. However, he

still works part time for EIII and PPL, giving him an opportunity to practice what he preaches to students. It also provides him with a great place to bring his students.

Mangan often has used the Susquehanna Riverlands through the years to give his students practical field experience in wildlife techniques such as live-trapping small mammals, tracking large carnivores using tracking stations and assessing fish populations in Lake Took-A-While using an electro-fishing boat.

Most summers Mangan runs a graduate course for area teachers about river studies that is centered at the Riverlands. Last summer, he partnered with science teacher Mary Jo Gibson from Berwick Area Middle School for a graduate course on the Chesapeake Bay, sponsored in part by a PPL Project Earth grant.

Another EIII scientist, and an adjunct professor at King's, Jim Montgomery, taught upper-level classes last summer and fall in wetlands identification and delineation at the Riverlands.

Montgomery is a botanist and internationally recognized authority on ferns (he actually has a species of fern named after him). He taught students to identify plants and soils and use them as an indicator of wetlands areas that may need special protection.

Mangan summed up the attraction of the Riverlands for him and his students. "King's is an urban college," he said. "For us to have access to a natural space close by — and have it also be an area that is recognized by the Audubon Society as an important bird area rich in all types of wildlife — is an invaluable asset for many environmental educators like me in this region."

Susquehanna employees give record amount to United Way

Around the nation, contributions to nonprofit organizations have fallen along with the general state of the economy. But not at the Susquehanna plant. Susquehanna workers contributed \$223,712 to the 2009 United Way Campaign — giving \$15,000 more than they did in 2008.

"The United Way supports numerous organizations in our communities, providing food, shelter, clothing and other assistance to those in need," said Susquehanna Plant Manager Jeff Helsel. "It is comforting to know that while our team works long hours to provide safe, reliable power, it is also clear that we feel it's important to offer contributions that make a difference."

Also in the 2009 United Way campaign, PPL Corporation employees set a new record in contributions, giving \$2,020,741 in the six states where the company has facilities.



Knowing what to do in an emergency

The blue pages of your local telephone book contain information that can help you stay calm and take the appropriate actions safely if an emergency occurs.

If you hear a long, steady tone from the emergency sirens, which can be used for all types of emergencies, tune in to your local radio or television station for more information. Taking the actions recommended on the broadcasts will help keep you and your family safe.

If you have any questions or would like additional copies of the emergency information available in the phone book, call toll-free 1-866-832-3312.



Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve

Pennsylvania Basic Boating Class

Saturday, March 13

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presented by: Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

For ages 12 and over. Preregistration is required. Call toll-free 1-866-832-3312.

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission will once again hold a one-day boating safety course at the Susquehanna Riverlands. Those who successfully complete this course can apply for a boating safety education certificate issued by the commission. There is a \$10 fee for the certificate, which is required for all operators of personal watercraft, and for boat operators born after Jan. 1, 1982, who operate motorboats of more than 25 horsepower. The boating class is free; however, space is limited, and preregistration is required. To register,

call the Riverlands at 1-866-832-3312. More information about the course can be found on the commission's Web site at www.fish.state.pa.us/98boatco.htm.

St. Patrick's World

Sunday, March 14

1:30 to 3 p.m.

Wednesday, March 17

7 to 8:30 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presented by: Clem McIntyre, Riverlands naturalist

The story of the man who would become St. Patrick is one of kidnapping and slavery, daring escapes, Imperial Rome, the early Christian church and the last remnants of a mysterious civilization that once spanned most of Europe. In addition to St. Patrick, this program will touch on the nature, history and culture of Ireland.

Celebrating the Spring

Saturday, March 20

1:30 to 3 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presented by: Clem McIntyre, Riverlands naturalist

This program focuses on the natural events and the observances, myths and

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A pile of feathers on a rock

Observations by Riverlands Naturalist Clem McIntyre

A juvenile Cooper's hawk has been staking out our bird feeder in the Susquehanna Riverlands environmental preserve this winter. We see him there almost every day, perched on his favorite branch, fascinated by the constant comings and goings of the chickadees, titmice and juncos. It's the perfect place for a young, inexperienced hunter to hone his skills and wait for warmer weather.

Inevitably, I came out one morning to find a pile of soft, downy fluff on the cold, hard surface of a snow-covered rock. The hawk had made a kill.

Immediately, my sympathy went to the little bird that had lost its life — that had come simply looking for food and ended up becoming food. Countless cartoons, fairy tales, books and movies train us to think of the predator as the bad guy.

But watching the hawk later that day, feathers puffed out against the biting cold, a keen look of gnawing hunger in his eyes, I saw it for what it was: simply another creature trying to survive the frigid Pennsylvania winter the best it can.

Nature isn't one or the other — the soft feathers or the hard rock — it's both. It is both cruel and kind, at once aloof and nurturing. From each death, new life springs up somewhere else. Nutrients are passed up and down through the food chain, always moving and transforming, but never disappearing.



As part of PPL's \$60,000 pledge to the Berwick YMCA capital campaign, Teri MacBride (left), regional community relations director, and Joe Scopelliti (right), Susquehanna community relations manager, presented a check for \$10,000 to Nick Pajovich, YMCA executive director. The Y's capital project included remodeling the child day care area where the check presentation ceremony was held in January.



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Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve

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traditions from around the world that surround the time leading up to the vernal equinox and the coming of spring. From the first flowers through the last of the colored eggs, we'll explore the origins of these practices and how they were influenced by the natural world.

March into Spring

Friday, March 26

Saturday, March 27

10:30 a.m. to noon

Wetlands Nature Area

Presented by: Clem McIntyre,
Riverlands naturalist

Welcome spring with a walk through the wetlands to look for signs of the natural world awakening from the long winter doldrums. Meet in the wetlands parking lot to begin the hike. Spring weather can be very unpredictable, so be sure to dress appropriately. Waterproof footwear is strongly recommended.



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3. Non-ambulatory? _____
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This information is considered confidential and will only be used for emergency purposes. For questions, contact G. Nevin Dressler at 570-542-3627 or gndressler@pplweb.com.

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