

# PPL takes next steps toward potential new nuclear plant

PPL took the next steps in the development of a potential new nuclear power plant with an application in late September to the U.S. Department of Energy for a loan guarantee and one to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in mid-October for a combined license to build and operate the plant.

The new plant, which would be called Bell Bend, would be built on PPL land near the Susquehanna nuclear power plant, which has a 25-year history of safe, reliable operations and significant benefits to the community.

“Federal loan guarantees are essential to Bell Bend and to other nuclear power projects around the country,” said Joe Scopelliti, Susquehanna community relations manager. “Without a federal guarantee, companies like PPL would not be able to secure financing for the substantial cost of building new, advanced design nuclear energy plants that will help

this country on the road to energy independence.”

The federal loan guarantee program was authorized by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to support projects that avoid greenhouse gases and employ new technologies. It is intended that all costs of the program be paid by the industry at no cost to taxpayers.

Bell Bend would produce 1,600 megawatts of electricity – enough to power more than 1 million homes. PPL has chosen the U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor from AREVA of France for the Bell Bend unit. Plants with this technology are already under construction in Finland, France and China.

PPL will submit the second part of the loan guarantee application as required before the Dec. 19 deadline, Scopelliti said.

NRC review of the Combined License Application, which is more than 10,000 pages, is expected to take three to four



Proposed Bell Bend plant on left.

years. The NRC process will include ample opportunity for public input.

The Bell Bend license application includes the U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactor, which is already under design certification review by the NRC. PPL contracted with UniStar Nuclear Energy, a strategic joint venture of Constellation Energy and EDF Group, to assist with preparation of the application.

Bell Bend would be part of the initial family of four U.S. Evolutionary Power Reactors led by UniStar’s Calvert Cliffs 3 project.

A final decision by PPL on whether to move forward with the Bell Bend plant won’t be made for several years, and will depend on NRC approval, on receiving a federal loan guarantee, on attracting additional investors, and on the company’s view of the power market fundamentals at that time, Scopelliti said.

If the Bell Bend plant is built, it would create thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of new permanent jobs, and would increase the contribution PPL and its employees already are making to the economic health of surrounding communities and the region as a whole.

Visit [www.bellbend.com](http://www.bellbend.com) for more information on the proposed new unit.



## Siren tests successful

Both the new and the original sirens in the Susquehanna nuclear plant emergency notification system successfully passed full-scale tests conducted Aug. 27.

In the tests, the 76 new sirens were sounded three times for three minutes each time. The 112 sirens in the original system sounded once for three minutes.

“We are pleased by the solid performance of our new system during initial testing,” said Neil Gannon, vice president-

*(continued on page 4)*

# PPL Susquehanna Fall Festival

Oct. 11, 2008



## Fall Festival held at Riverlands

To say “thank you” to all our neighbors, PPL Susquehanna hosted a day of food, music and fun at the Riverlands Environmental Preserve on Oct. 11.

More than 500 visitors enjoyed free hayrides, face and pumpkin painting, and other activities for the kids. Berwick Hospital had health and wellness information available, and local farmers sold their produce.

For advance notice of Riverlands programs, send your e-mail address to [ctmcintyre@pplweb.com](mailto:ctmcintyre@pplweb.com) to sign up for our electronic newsletter.

## National Geographic TV show features Susquehanna plant

The Susquehanna nuclear plant was the star Sept. 28 in the premiere episode of the new National Geographic Channel 10-part series “World’s Toughest Fixes.” The show featured the replacement of the plant’s Unit 1 turbine during the refueling outage in March.

“Having the Susquehanna plant featured in a national television show is a tribute to the quality work of PPL employees,” said Britt McKinney, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer. “The turbine replacement project was carried out flawlessly by plant personnel, Generation Field Services and Siemens, the prime contractor on the project.

“Credit also goes to the plant’s Health Physics and Security personnel for their assistance in ensuring that the television crew was able to get the film they needed to produce a show that would capture audience attention without compromising health, safety and plant security.”

The new series stars Sean Riley, a designer, rigger and sculptor from San Francisco. “Riley’s interest in the laws of nature and how they relate to industry led him to set up and run his own company, Gravity Design,” National Geographic said in promotional material about the show. “With expertise in rigging, suspension and load transfer, he has scaled the lofty heights of his field. Riley has been flying and moving live loads for a variety of clients — from circus acts to industrial installations — for more than 12 years.”

During March, Riley and the National Geographic television crew spent nearly three weeks at the Susquehanna plant filming the turbine replacement, which is part of the work being done to enable the plant to produce more electricity.

“World’s Toughest Fixes” will air regularly on Wednesday nights at 10 p.m. More information can be found online at <http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/series/worlds-toughest-fixes>.



# Susquehanna plant celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

Susquehanna plant personnel and local community leaders celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Unit 1 and marked several plant achievements with a luncheon Sept. 25 at the Riverlands Environmental Preserve.

“The Susquehanna nuclear plant has safely generated more than 338 billion kilowatt-hours of affordable and reliable electricity since Unit 1 began operation in the summer of 1983,” said Britt McKinney, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer.

“The success of this vital source of energy would not be possible without the support we have received from our neighbors and our communities and the dedicated service of the thousands of employees who have worked at this plant over the years.”

Unit 2, which began commercial operation in 1985, has been operating continuously for more than 500 days since it was refueled in spring 2007.



Columbia County Commissioner Bill Soberick, left, speaks with Jim Miller, PPL's chairman, president and chief executive officer, at the CEO's annual dinner with elected officials and community leaders in the 10-mile Emergency Planning Zoning around the Susquehanna nuclear plant. The dinner was held Oct. 2 at the Rolling Pines Golf Club in Berwick.



## Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve

### **The Story So Far: A Brief History of Life on Earth**

Saturday, Nov. 8, 10:30 a.m.-noon  
Susquehanna Energy  
Information Center  
Presented by: Clem McIntyre,  
Riverlands naturalist

Take a journey down a timeline of the history of life on our planet and find out where we came from and how we got where we are. Clem McIntyre will lead this light and lively discussion on what we know about life and how we know it, focusing on the high points of prehistory, the controversies, the blunders and the personalities that have helped us understand our story so far. This program is appropriate for all ages and educational backgrounds.

### **Native Grasslands: Renewable Energy Today**

Tuesday, Nov. 18, 7-8:30 p.m.  
PPL Susquehanna Energy  
Information Center  
Presented by: Scott Singer, U.S.  
Natural Resources Conservation  
Service

Scott Singer will bring us up to date on the promise of native grasslands as a renewable, low-cost and low-carbon-emitting source of heating fuel that can be grown right here in our area. His presentation will cover the methods for cultivating native grass, some of the biological and ecological benefits of planting it and the process of creating fuel pellets. Singer will also talk about some of the places in our area that are planning to use native grass for their primary source of heat and what is involved in converting to such a system.



Everyone in your home should review the emergency information in the blue pages of your telephone book.

## Siren tests *(continued from page 1)*

Nuclear Operations. “The sirens play an important role in the emergency plans of the communities in the 10-mile area surrounding the plant since the sirens can be used to notify residents of any emergency, not only those at the plant. Also, some of the sirens are shared with local fire companies, which use them for fire calls.”

The successful testing of the new sirens is one of the final steps in the replacement of the original siren system that was installed about 25 years ago, Gannon said.

“Some of the new sirens are in different locations than the original ones, so they might not seem as loud if you are used to having a siren close by,” he said. “But the sirens are only a part of comprehensive municipal emergency response plans to alert residents.

“Those plans also include other methods such as radio and TV messages and ‘route alerting’ in which municipal vehicles drive through neighborhoods making announcements over public address systems.”

The annual test of the original system was conducted the same day to minimize inconvenience for area residents. The test was done to ensure that system continues to be available for use until the new system has been accepted by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

## Stop by for a visit

If you’d like to learn more about the nuclear plant, stop by the Susquehanna Energy Information Center on Route 11 in Salem Township. We offer guided visits to the Susquehanna plant as well as a short film about energy and interactive displays. It’s free, interesting, fun and an educational activity for all ages.

We’re open year-round from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. From May 1 to Nov. 1, we’re also open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, and from noon to 4 p.m. Sunday.

## We’re Listening

If you would like to know more about any of the subjects covered in this issue, or if you have questions or comments about the plant, please call us at the Susquehanna Energy Information Center at 1-866-832-3312.

Inside Susquehanna is published three times a year by PPL Susquehanna.

For past issues, please visit our Web site at [www.pplsusquehanna.com](http://www.pplsusquehanna.com).

