

Training Programs Get Nod of Approval from Board

The National Nuclear Accrediting Board renewed accreditation of all six of PPL Susquehanna's technical training programs in February.

"Maintaining accreditation demonstrates that our courses keep our employees up-to-date with advances in the industry, as well as with new equipment and processes at our plant," said Ken Roush, manager-Nuclear Training.

"Our plant employees are fully involved with our training process. They provide input into what training is needed to improve performance," said Roush.

The board accredits 12 training programs offered by nuclear power plants. It reviews technical training programs at Susquehanna every four years, and the operations training programs on a different four-year cycle.



Mechanics rebuild control rod drives every year as part of their annual training. The control rod drives push control rods into the reactor to shut it down.



Britt McKinney will start at PPL Susquehanna on May 24.

PPL Susquehanna Names Vice President-Nuclear Site Operations

Britt T. McKinney, a 29-year veteran of the nuclear power industry has been named vice president-Nuclear Site Operations for the Susquehanna plant.

McKinney will have overall responsibility for site operations and report to Bryce Shriver, PPL senior vice president and chief nuclear officer.

"Britt's leadership style and experience will provide an integrated focus, beyond the day-to-day operations, to drive continuous improvement at the plant," Shriver said.

McKinney is currently site vice president at Wolf Creek Nuclear Generating Station, a 1,200-megawatt nuclear power plant in Burlington, Kan. He also worked at the Browns Ferry Nuclear Generating Station in Alabama and started his career at the Fort St. Vrain Nuclear Generating Station in Colorado.

McKinney is a licensed senior reactor operator. He has a Master of Science degree in power engineering from New Mexico State University and Bachelor of Science degrees in engineering science, business administration and mathematics from Regis College, Denver, Colo.

Susquehanna Unit 1 Outage Extended to Ensure Reliability

Workers did an encore performance during the Unit 1 outage this spring by repeating one of the largest improvement efforts in the plant's history, which was made on Unit 2 last year.

"The upgrades we've completed will increase the amount of electricity we can provide safely and reliably to residents and businesses of northeastern Pennsylvania for years to come," said Rich Anderson, vice president-Nuclear Operations. "Additionally, these major investments boost our efficiency so we are now producing about 4 percent more power but using the same amount of fuel."

After safely shutting down the Unit 1 reactor on Feb. 28 for a planned refueling and inspection outage, crews went to work replacing the unit's four steam turbines, which spin the generator to produce electricity. The new turbines are more efficient and will add 50 megawatts of

electrical output — enough to power about 50,000 homes.

New main transformers were installed to handle the increased electrical load, and modifications to the 20 jet pumps that circulate cooling water in the reactor's fuel core will further enhance efficiency. "We produced more electricity than ever last year, and we are looking forward to another banner year," Anderson said.

A refueling and inspection outage prepares a unit for two years of safe and reliable operation. Workers performed more than 2,600 tasks and inspections to improve the performance of the unit and ensure its reliability. Crews also replaced 280 fuel assemblies — about 40 percent of the reactor's uranium fuel.

During the systematic inspections, employees found a minor defect in two welds on nozzles that connect the reactor to the water recirculation system piping.

"These types of defects are known in the industry, and were repaired using an established welding process that had been used at other nuclear power plants," Anderson said. "Our refueling and inspection outages are designed to identify and correct just this type of thing before it becomes an operational problem."



Inspections Reveal No Unusual Issues with Diesel Generators

An investigation by PPL Susquehanna employees and a separate Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspection found no unusual issues surrounding occurrences of three loose bolts on the plant's diesel generators during the last 12 months. In each case, crews immediately inspected similar bolts on the remaining four generators and found no problems.

The diesels provide a third source of backup power to the plant. Three of the four diesels are required to be available at any one time. Susquehanna has a fifth standby diesel generator that can be substituted if needed.

"We are confident that the diesels would have performed their design function had they been needed," said Rocco Sgarro, manager of Nuclear Regulatory Affairs at PPL Susquehanna. "Additionally, at no time did the loose bolts affect our plant operations."

A loose bolt was discovered on three different generators during routine testing between March 2003 and January 2004.

The NRC found the events to be unrelated and of very low safety significance.

"As a preventive measure we replaced bolts that could be affected with fittings that were less likely to work free and we now include torquing values in documents given to workers," Sgarro said.

The new transformers (top left) will handle the increased power generated by the new turbines. Two Susquehanna employees (bottom right) inspect an electrical panel during the outage.



John Grabowski, Newport Township police services officer, and Norman Bodek, emergency coordinator, (top left) and Paul Mierzwa, communications officer, (below) take notes about the emergency situation being broadcast over the agency's radio during a February drill.



Quarterly Drills Ensure the Protection of the Public

More than 600 community volunteers and 100 PPL Susquehanna employees participated in emergency drills earlier this year as part of the plant's emergency preparedness plan to ensure public safety.

Community volunteers for the 27 emergency management agencies surrounding the Susquehanna plant tested their skills in February, and plant employees participated in a drill in January.

"PPL employees work closely with the local agencies to prepare for emergency response," said Norman Bodek, emergency coordinator at Newport Township's emergency management agency. "They help us organize the drills, train the volunteers and provide useful suggestions for how we can improve our

entire operation. We feel confident of our ability to make sure the public's health and safety is protected in an emergency."

The agencies' plans are designed to handle all types of emergencies. In fact, several local agencies have used their plans to handle non-nuclear emergencies over the past three years.

"The drills develop our skills to handle a multitude of potential plant issues and also help us identify how we can improve the overall plan," said Jeff Grisewood, supervisor of emergency planning at PPL Susquehanna. "We appreciate the dedication of the community volunteers and the PPL employees who work after hours to support them. Their teamwork benefits all of us in the community."

Future plant drills are planned for May, August, October and November. Local

agencies in 22 counties surrounding the plant will also perform a drill in August.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Emergency Management Agency will evaluate the performance of both employees and the agency volunteers during a drill in October.

PPL Susquehanna's emergency response network covers a 10-mile radius around the plant known as the Emergency Planning Zone. Instructions for what to do in the unlikely event of a nuclear emergency are in the blue pages of the local telephone book.

To ensure all people living in the EPZ are protected, anyone requiring special attention should fill out the enclosed "Special Needs" postcard. Residents of nursing homes and hospitals already have plans for handling their patients.

Siren Tests

As part of its comprehensive emergency response plan, PPL provides and maintains a network of 112 sirens in the communities around the Susquehanna power plant for use by Luzerne and Columbia county officials in any emergency.

The sirens undergo monthly, silent, system-wide tests and an annual full-scale test, which this year will be held May 26.

Upcoming regional "growl" tests:

- Bloomsburg area: The week Aug. 2.
- Hazleton area: The weeks of June 7 and Sept. 13.
- Wilkes-Barre area: The week of July 5.



Nuclear Power Owners Sue DOE

About 30 nuclear power plant operators, including PPL Susquehanna, have sued the U.S. Department of Energy for failing to meet its statutory deadline to accept the nation's used nuclear fuel.

Under the Nuclear Waste Policy Act, DOE was required to accept the fuel by Jan. 31, 1998, in exchange for payment into the Nuclear Waste Fund to be used to build a permanent storage facility for the spent fuel. Since Susquehanna started operations, PPL has paid \$281 million into the fund.

Because a central repository has not been built, PPL Susquehanna and other plants have been forced to build on-site

temporary storage complexes.

DOE is preparing an application for a license to construct the permanent storage facility at Yucca Mountain, Nev.

Potassium Iodide Tablets Available to States

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission will renew funding for states to distribute potassium iodide tablets after the current money runs out in 2005. The tablets are used as a supplement to evacuation and sheltering in the event of a severe nuclear accident.

Nineteen of 34 states eligible for the tablets have asked for them, including Pennsylvania.

Plant Meets Safety Objectives

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission found that the Susquehanna plant operated "in a manner that preserved public health and safety" and met all the commission's performance objectives for 2003.



Plant management and NRC officials reviewed the safety performance assessment at a public meeting on April 27. All operating nuclear power plants are evaluated annually under the NRC's reactor oversight program.

Inspectors said they were satisfied with how the plant addressed issues identified early last year on the proper implementation of procedures.

The assessment also noted that sometimes Susquehanna employees don't hone in on key aspects of a problem or specify actions necessary to correct it. The NRC will continue to monitor how effectively problems are identified and resolved.

"We look to the NRC, as well as industry best practices and our own critical self assessments, to challenge us not only to meet the highest standards but to set new ones" said Rich Anderson, vice president-Nuclear Operations.

Susquehanna's performance requires only the standard level of inspections at the plant through September 2005.

Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve

PPL provides year-round education and recreation at the Susquehanna Riverlands. Upcoming programs on the environment, energy and other topics include:

- "Fourth of July" Butterfly Count, June 19.
- "The Susquehanna River" Graduate Course, June 21-25.
- Pond Life, July 10.
- Nuclear Seminar for Teachers, July 26-Aug. 2.
- Advances in the Prevention of Heart Disease, July 31.
- Pennsylvania Mammals, Aug. 28.
- Ferns and Flowers, Sept. 12

For more information about Susquehanna Riverlands programs or to receive PPL's Environmental Currents newsletter, call 1-800-354-8383 or visit our Web site at www.pplweb.com/seic.

Some programs require advance registration and have limited space, so call early.

Another Record-Breaking Year Attests to PPL Susquehanna's reliability

The plant installed new turbines on Unit 2 during its planned refueling and inspection outage in spring 2003, and employees improved several processes and equipment reliability. As a result, Susquehanna generated nearly 18 billion kilowatt-hours in 2003, breaking the previous record of 17.8 billion kilowatt-hours set in 2001.

Unit 2 has operated continuously for more than a year since its outage last spring.

Award-Winning Community Leader Succeeds Woodeshick

People in the Berwick area may find themselves in a friendly exchange with Herb Woodeshick's successor to convince him to swap his soccer cleats for football cleats. Lou Ramos, who will become PPL Susquehanna's community relations manager when Woodeshick retires in June, may likewise try to find some soccer converts in this predominately football-oriented community.

"I am a great fan of Berwick football, but I am also looking forward to sharing my passion for soccer with the community," said Ramos, a 30-year PPL veteran and award-winning community leader in the Lehigh Valley area. "I am pleased to be given this opportunity to work with all the local communities surrounding the plant, and I look forward to meeting as many people as possible – as soon as possible."

Ramos, who has been manager of community affairs for PPL since 1993, will relocate to the Berwick area. He assumed overall responsibility for the Susquehanna Energy Information

Center and the Riverlands on May 17.

"Lou's experience, his strong community service orientation and his state and federal contacts will serve PPL and the Berwick community well," said Bryce Shriver, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer for Susquehanna.

In the Lehigh Valley, Ramos assists a high-level soccer team and founded a women's soccer division. He serves on the Allentown School District's reform commission, the board of the Minsi Trails Boy Scout Council and as a trustee of DeSales University. Ramos also is a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education. He was appointed by U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum to the United States Senate Republican Task Force on Hispanic Affairs.

Among his many recognitions are the Distinguished Service Award of



Giving Back

PPL Susquehanna employees donated 426 pints of blood to the Berwick Chapter of the American Red Cross in 2003. Donations from plant employees comprise about 22 percent of the chapter's annual blood supplies.

Plant employees raised more than \$1,000 for the Columbia County unit of the American Cancer Society by selling flowers during Daffodil Days in January.

Working with the Berwick Salvation Army, PPL employees donated clothing and toys to more than 175 Berwick-area children to help them have a memorable holiday season in December. PPL employees contribute about 25 percent of the gifts bestowed on the 800 children the Salvation Army supplies through the Christmas Angel program.

the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, the Lehigh University Volunteer Service Award and the Minsi Trails Boy Scout Council award.



A message from Bryce Shriver, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer.

Good luck, Herb

Strong communities like the Berwick area provide a solid foundation for successful businesses. Herb Woodeshick, PPL Susquehanna's long-standing community representative, is part of that foundation.

Many organizations throughout the area have benefited from Herb's involvement, and as a result, our community has become stronger.

He has supported local businesses as a longtime member of the Berwick Chamber of Commerce and a former president and was recently named the chamber's Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

He received the Silver Beaver award for his support of the community's youth through his work on the Columbia-Montour Boy Scout Council. He also worked to help those in need — as a past campaign chairman of the Berwick Area United Way, and on the board of the Berwick Salvation Army.

His was a fountain of information about PPL Susquehanna and the nuclear industry and enthusiastically shared that

information with our neighbors. He invited a healthy dialogue about the issues through his leadership of the Susquehanna Citizens Committee, his work with local emergency management agencies and his interaction with municipal officials and residents through public meetings whenever the plant embarked on new initiatives.

Over the years, Herb has been not only our colleague, but our friend. From all of us at PPL, good luck in your retirement, Herb, and many thanks for your 39 years of company service — 21 years of it here at Susquehanna. You will be missed.



PPL ENERGY INFO CENTER
 634 SALEM BOULEVARD
 BERWICK PA 18603

Presorted Standard
 U.S. Postage
PAID
 Allentown, PA
 Permit No. 104

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

A Partnership for Community Health

PPL Susquehanna has the nature trails at the Susquehanna Riverlands. Berwick Hospital has patients needing exercise therapy. These two leading industries made a perfect match.

“Over the past several years, we’ve met an increasing number of people who walk one or more of the nine nature trails at the Riverlands as part of a regular exercise regimen,” said Fred Gast, community affairs specialist for PPL. “To better accommodate these dedicated walkers, we worked with the exercise experts at Berwick Hospital to enhance the main trail.”

The results of the collaboration include a sign at the beginning of the trail describing how to best use the walk as part of a comprehensive health program and distance markers along the trail.

“People who enjoy their exercise are much more likely to stay in a routine for the long term. The Riverlands trails provide a beautiful setting for exercising the body and restoring the mind,” said Megan Smith, director of Outpatient Services and Risk Management at Berwick Hospital.

PPL Susquehanna and the Berwick Hospital will team up for another cardiac health event on July 31.

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 Special Office, 570-759-2281 or 570-542-2131.

Inside Susquehanna is published three times a year by PPL Susquehanna. For past issues, please visit our Web site at www.pplweb.com/seic.

Community Report

Last year, PPL Susquehanna and its employees . . .

- Volunteered more than 40,000 hours.
- Donated more than \$430,000.
- Educated more than 10,000 people.
- Welcomed more than 125,000 visitors.