

PPL names Joe Scopelliti Susquehanna Community Relations Manager

Joe Scopelliti, a 23-year veteran with PPL Corporation and long-time resident of the Berwick area, has been named manager of community relations for the Susquehanna nuclear power plant.

“It’s good to be back at Susquehanna,” said Scopelliti, who had been the supervisor of the Susquehanna Energy Information Center before becoming PPL’s Bloomsburg regional community relations director in 2006.

Scopelliti succeeds Lou Ramos, who died in a car accident in January.

“The majority of Joe’s career has been focused on forging strong relationships between PPL and the Susquehanna plant and our neighbors,” said Britt McKinney, PPL’s senior vice president and chief nuclear officer. “We were fortunate, at a difficult time, that Joe could step into this position with his knowledge of the plant and his commitment to and involvement in Berwick and the surrounding communities.”

Scopelliti serves as vice president of the Berwick Chamber of Commerce and a member of the board of directors of the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation, and of the Tri-Chamber Foundation Inc. He also is a member of the Berwick Rotary Club and the local American Nuclear Society chapter. He has been active in fundraising for the Berwick Area United Way, the Berwick Public



Library, the United Way of Columbia County, the Columbia-Montour Council of Boy Scouts of America and the Berwick Area YMCA.

Scopelliti joined PPL in 1984 as a chemistry technician at the Susquehanna plant. A native of Shamokin, Scopelliti earned a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry from Bloomsburg University. He is pursuing a degree in business administration with a focus on management, also from Bloomsburg University. Scopelliti and his wife, Karen, live in Salem Township with their two daughters.

Accreditation renewed for Susquehanna Plant’s Technical Training programs

The National Nuclear Accreditation Board has renewed accreditation for the Susquehanna plant’s technical training programs for the next four years.

The results were based on an evaluation by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations and the World Association of Nuclear Operators last November.

“Getting the accreditation confirms that our training programs improve our overall performance,” said Mike Peal, PPL’s Nuclear Training manager. “Good training helps us work more safely and efficiently, which benefits each employee as well as the company.”

The board recognized several strengths including good teamwork among employees and solid ownership of training throughout the organization.

The technical training programs cover Instrument and Control, Electrical Maintenance, Mechanical Maintenance, Chemistry, Radiological Protection and Engineering.

Accreditation for these programs, which is required by law, was last renewed in February 2004. The National Nuclear Accreditation Board is sponsored by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations.

Susquehanna plant employee tapped to head Berwick Area United Way



Margy Rochester, an employee concerns representative for the Susquehanna nuclear power plant, has been elected president of the Berwick Area United Way for a one-year term.

Rochester has served on the Berwick United Way board of directors for two years. She also has been the fundraising campaign chair for the Susquehanna plant for the past three years.

“My involvement on the board has been very rewarding because I can directly see the benefits PPL employees’ donations bring to our community,” Rochester said. She has been on the Berwick United Way’s allocations committee since she became a board member.

“Everyone on the committee takes their responsibilities very seriously. The agency’s allocation process is very structured to be sure donations are distributed fairly and will have the greatest benefit to our communities,” she said. The Berwick allocations committee distributes about \$300,000 in donations every year.

Last year, more than half of Susquehanna employees joined ranks to contribute nearly \$220,000 toward PPL Corporation’s total pledge of nearly \$2 million to United Way organizations near its facilities.

Unit 1 completes successful refueling and maintenance outage

Unit 1 at the Susquehanna nuclear power plant resumed generating electricity in mid-April after a scheduled refueling and maintenance outage was completed successfully.

“During the outage, which started March 4, workers replaced about 40 percent of the uranium fuel and completed a large number of equipment maintenance tasks and upgrades that will ensure Unit 1 continues to operate safely and reliably,” said Neil Gannon, PPL’s vice president of Nuclear Operations.

Gannon said the upgrades included replacing the unit’s high-pressure turbine rotor and its steam dryer, which is located in the reactor above the fuel core. The steam dryer helps to remove more than 99 percent of the moisture in the steam that turns the turbine to generate electricity. If not removed, the moisture would damage the turbine’s blades.

As a result of the modifications made during the outage, including the new turbine rotor and steam dryer, power level for the unit was increased by about 7 percent, Gannon said. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission had approved increasing the plant’s power levels in January. Similar modifications will be made to Unit 2 at the plant in 2009.

The outage had a positive impact on the local economy as well. More than 1,000 additional workers — from other PPL facilities and from specialty contracting firms — took part in the outage, generating additional business and revenue for hotels, shops, restaurants and other area businesses.

PPL Susquehanna operated safely in 2007, NRC says

The Susquehanna nuclear plant operated safely in 2007, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported at the commission’s annual public meeting in mid-April at the Susquehanna Energy Information Center.

The NRC’s assessment of the plant’s 2007 performance was based on more than 5,680 hours of inspections and related activities by commission staff members, said Paul Krohn, NRC branch chief.

Although there were 11 inspection findings during the year, the NRC reported, all were in the commission’s “green” — or very low safety significance — category.

“PPL operated the Susquehanna plant safely and in a manner that preserved public health and safety and protected the environment,” Krohn said. In addition, the plant met all of the NRC’s performance objectives.

In consideration of the overall safe operation of the plant, the NRC plans to conduct only its standard inspections at Susquehanna during 2008.

“Regardless of how well the Susquehanna plant works, or how well we operate it, there are gaps and we work at continually improving performance and closing those gaps,” said Britt McKinney, senior vice

president and chief nuclear officer. “We’re not interested in average performance. We want to get better and this assessment gives us an opportunity to do that.”



Boy Scouts from Columbia-Montour Boy Scout Council visited Susquehanna Riverlands for their Spring Camporee May 2-4.

The scouts worked on their train merit badge and toured the Susquehanna nuclear plant.



Susquehanna Riverlands
Environmental Preserve

Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve

Water Plants

Sat., June 14, 1-2 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy Information Center

Presented by: Richard Hess, owner, Pine Patch Nursery

Water gardens are more popular than ever, but water plants are still an enigma to many people. Dick Hess will take some of the mystery out of them in this informative program. There will be a live demonstration on how to pot water plants, and two lucky program participants will get to take those potted plants home with them.

15th Annual Fourth of July Butterfly Count

Sat., June 21, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy Information Center

Presented by: Nancy and Jim Dennis, count coordinators

In an age of shrinking habitat and disappearing species, it is important to keep track of the health and numbers

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PPL Riverlands hosts Luzerne County Envirothon

The average person may not know the difference between a River Birch and an American Basswood, but a team of Crestwood High School students did. The team won the county level of a national environmental contest at PPL’s Susquehanna Riverlands in April.

More than 180 high school students from about half of the school districts in Luzerne County, where the contest began in 1979, participated in the Envirothon.

“Being asked to host this event for the first time here at the Riverlands shows that others in our community recognize PPL’s commitment to the environment,” said John Fridman, assistant superintendent for the Riverlands Environmental Preserve and one of the event’s organizers.

Teams of students compete in the Envirothon by answering environmental questions on topics like forestry, soils, wildlife, aquatics and current events. The contest is held first at the county level, then at the state and ends with an international contest involving students from more than 40 U.S. states and eight Canadian provinces.

This year’s contest focused on the environmental impacts of recreation. Susquehanna Riverlands naturalist Clem McIntyre was one of the judges.

Agencies that facilitated the testing stations at the Envirothon included the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission, the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources’ Bureau of Parks and Bureau of Forestry and the Game Commission.



Students work on the soils test.

Stop by and 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 along with a short film about energy and interactive displays. It’s free, interesting, fun and an educational activity for all ages.

We’re open Mon. – Fri., 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m - 4 p.m., Sun. noon-4 p.m.

For more information or to schedule a presentation for a group, call toll-free 866-832-3312.



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Susquehanna Riverlands

Environmental Preserve

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of wild populations. Have you ever wondered how that is accomplished? Who is out there counting? Well, it could be you, if you join us for our annual butterfly count. Information collected in this count will be reported to and compiled by the North American Butterfly Association.

Participants should bring binoculars, a field guide, water and a light lunch. There is a \$3 participation fee, which will go to NABA. Because of the way the count is conducted, large Scouting groups or other organizations cannot be accommodated. For more information or to register, contact count

coordinators Jim and Nancy Dennis at 570-759-1590.

Wonders of Wetlands

Wed., June 18, and Sat., June 22
1:30-3 p.m.

Wetlands Nature Area

Presented by: John Fridman,
Riverlands staff

When most people think of wetlands, they think of fetid swamps, mosquitoes and mud. But there is so much more than that going on if you just take a closer look. Come along with John Fridman as he takes you out for a closer look and explains why wetlands are not just beneficial but vital to both wildlife and humans. Over the approximately 1-mile walk, you will learn what constitutes a wetland, what species live there and why we need these places to remain unspoiled.

Books on Bugs

Tues., June 24 and Thur., June 26
6:30-7:30 p.m.

McBride Memorial Library
Presented by: Clem McIntyre,
Riverlands naturalist

Preregistration is required

The Riverlands, in partnership with The McBride Memorial Library in Berwick, is offering a summer reading course based on the theme "Catch the Reading Bug." The first in our series is an introduction to the world of insects. Naturalist Clem McIntyre will read a book to participating children and their parents, then provide insight through activities and question-and-answer session. The June 24 program is for preschool-age children, and the program on June 26 is geared for children in Grades 1-3. Call the library at 570-752-2241 for registration information.



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