



Nuclear fuel a critical part of Susquehanna plant operation

At any power plant, fuel is a critical component. But at a nuclear plant, it's a little more complicated to buy it, use it and dispose of it.

For PPL's Susquehanna nuclear plant, the people in the Nuclear Fuel Supply group make sure that fuel is available to generate electricity.

The group, led by Andy Dyszel, takes care of the overall fuel process from purchasing the uranium to disposal of the fuel that is "spent." Dyszel says that it's a real team effort.

"We rely on teamwork, not only within our own group, but with a lot of other organizations that contribute to plant operation and maintenance," he said.

Unlike coal, which arrives at a power plant in virtually the same condition it was in when it came out of the mine, nuclear fuel goes through many changes between the time that it is mined and the time it ends up in the reactor.

Different vendors provide each of the services — mining and milling of the uranium ore, conversion to a gas, enrichment to enhance the efficiency of the fuel, and fabrication into the fuel assemblies that get loaded into the reactor. Dyszel's group

is involved at every step. In addition, some fuel comes from recycled Soviet nuclear warheads through the Megatons to Megawatts Program in which a number of utilities participate.

"We begin the process of obtaining fuel over a year before the start of each refueling outage," he said. "For example, the design of the fuel that will be loaded into Unit 2 during its 2011 refueling outage began in the fall of 2009."

Good fuel design is one of the keys to successful operation. About 40 percent of the fuel in each reactor is replaced every two years. Design involves determining the best configuration of new and older fuel in the reactor's fuel core.

"We design the reactor core ourselves. Underlying all of our decisions in the fuel process is a profound respect for the reactor core," Dyszel said.

"Everyone in the group is sensitive to nuclear, radiological and industrial safety concerns in everything they do. We have a strong vendor oversight program to ensure that we obtain high-quality fuel.

"Our efforts are paying off. Susquehanna's fuel program is one of the best in the industry."

Susquehanna employees give record amount to United Way

Once again, Susquehanna workers contributed a record amount to United Way, giving \$226,933 to the 2010 United Way Campaign — \$3,000 more than they did in 2009.

In addition, their first-ever United Way golf tournament and the plant's annual chili contest raised an extra \$51,535 for the 2010 campaign.

"Many organizations in our communities depend on the support they receive from United Way to provide food, shelter, clothing and other assistance to those in need," said Susquehanna Plant Manager Jeff Hesel. "That support is especially critical with the tough economic climate the past couple of years, and our employees want to help."

Employees and retirees across PPL Corporation also set a new record, donating a total of about \$2.2 million. The previous year's campaign raised about \$2.02 million for local United Ways and other community health and human services agencies.



Bloodmobile visits Susquehanna nuclear plant

Giving back to the community is important to PPL Susquehanna and its employees. So important that several times a year the Berwick Red Cross bloodmobile spends a day at the Susquehanna nuclear plant to collect blood donations.

During a bloodmobile visit in December, 45 units of blood were collected, said Diane DeLuca, blood services coordinator for the Berwick Red Cross.

“We appreciate the willingness of PPL workers to support the bloodmobiles, DeLuca said. “Many of the PPL donors give every time we visit the plant, and in December we had three first-time donors as well.”



Knowing what to do in an emergency

The information pages of your local telephone book contain important instructions so you can take the appropriate actions safely if an emergency occurs.

The emergency sirens installed by PPL Susquehanna are a community resource that can be used for all types of emergencies, not just those involving the nuclear power plant. If you hear the sirens sound in a long, steady tone, you should 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.



Dan Downs, left, supervisor-Maintenance Planning, and Jeff Tucker, center, general manager of Nuclear Maintenance, present Bill Gipple with an award for helping a man who was choking.

PPL employee's rescue efforts save a life

Susquehanna plant mechanical planner Bill Gipple was seated across from his wife at a Buckhorn restaurant recently when she told him something was wrong with the couple in the booth behind him.

A quick glance over his shoulder told him help was needed. Gipple asked the man if he were choking, and the man could only nod.

Gipple quickly performed a Heimlich maneuver and eventually cardiopulmonary resuscitation, skills he learned as part of his job duties at the plant. He continued to perform CPR until another restaurant patron helped by taking a turn at the chest compressions. Meanwhile, restaurant staff called 911.

An ambulance and paramedics soon arrived and took over the resuscitation efforts. “When you know someone’s life is on the line — the man’s face was very blue — minutes seem like hours. I was very relieved when the paramedics arrived,” Gipple said.

“It was a real community effort,” Gipple said. “My wife helped me and the other patron with resuscitation efforts, and the restaurant staff quickly called 911 and guided onlookers away from the scene. And our young waitress comforted the man’s distraught wife throughout the entire ordeal.”

Safe, reliable operation top priority

Safe and reliable operation of the two units at the Susquehanna nuclear power plant is PPL’s top priority.

That’s why the company conducted a thorough investigation after river water entered the plant’s Turbine Building basement in July 2010 from two hatches that provide access to part of the Unit 1 condenser.

To ensure it won’t happen again, the maintenance process for installing gaskets on access hatches has been revised to include more thorough testing after installation. Also, a procedure

plant operators use to isolate leaks in the condenser has been revised to better identify the locations of various pieces of the condenser.

The condenser cools steam used to turn the turbine to produce electricity. The area of the condenser where the leak occurred contains only river water and is located in a non-nuclear area of the plant. The water that leaked was contained in plant buildings and an adjacent storage tank area that has a protective berm designed to contain any spills.

PPL appoints state police veteran as Susquehanna plant security manager

PPL Susquehanna has named James W. Murtin, a 26-year veteran of the Pennsylvania State Police, as manager of Nuclear Security at the Susquehanna nuclear plant.

“We are pleased to welcome Jim Murtin to PPL and the Susquehanna plant,” said Jeff Helsel, Susquehanna plant manager. “He brings to us a depth of operational police experience and strong leadership skills for our organization. As the commanding officer of Pennsylvania State Police Troop N for five years until he retired in May 2010, he has played a key role overseeing law enforcement work in northeast Pennsylvania.”

As nuclear security manager, Murtin will be responsible for the overall administration and control of PPL Susquehanna’s security programs, personnel and activities. In the unlikely event of an emergency at the Susquehanna plant, Murtin would serve as a point of contact for local law enforcement personnel.

A native of Mahanoy City, Schuylkill County, Murtin is a graduate of the

220th Class of the Federal Bureau of Investigation National Academy and the Pennsylvania State Police Academy. He received a bachelor’s degree in public

administration from the University of Scranton. He maintains affiliations with the FBI National Academy Associates and the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

Murtin resides in Bloomsburg with his wife and two daughters.



Sharon McIntyre, left, and Darlene DeWalt.

Susquehanna employees help more than 200 children in need

The Susquehanna plant and the Susquehanna Chapter of Women in Nuclear helped make the holidays a little bit brighter for 230 children in the Berwick area.

Plant personnel donated items to fill the stockings for families in need identified by the Berwick Area Salvation Army.

“This year’s requests seemed to be for basic needs, and I believe our employees felt it. We are so grateful to have such a caring and generous team here at Susquehanna,” said Darlene DeWalt, steno/clerk, WIN chapter member and project coordinator. DeWalt and fellow steno/clerk and WIN chapter member Sharon McIntyre coordinated the community gift collection.



Mini-NEST Nuclear Education

Friday, March 11

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy Information Center

Presenter: PPL staff and Dr. David Simpson, Bloomsburg University

Because of the overwhelming response to our annual weeklong Nuclear Energy Seminar for Teachers (NEST) course, PPL will offer Mini-NEST this spring. We’ve condensed as much information as possible into this daylong course that will include sessions on energy basics, the fundamentals of nuclear power and the future of nuclear power in America. A perimeter tour of the plant and the site of a possible new unit at Susquehanna will end the day. PPL will provide a catered lunch for participants. This session is open to the public. ACT 48 credits are available to participating teachers.

Preregistration is required. To register, call the Riverlands at 1-866-832-3312 or e-mail pplpreserves@pplweb.com.

Pennsylvania Basic Boating Class

Saturday, March 19

9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presenter: Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission

For ages 12 and over. Preregistration is required.

Call toll-free 1-866-832-3312.

Get an early jump on the boating season by taking a safe boating course. The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission boating safety class gives boaters practical information so they can make more informed decisions on the water.

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Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve Calendar *(Continued from page 3)*

Students who pass the exam at the end of the daylong course can receive their boating safety education certificate from 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 and open to anyone 12 years old and up. Space is limited, however, and you must preregister by calling the Riverlands at 1-866-832-3312. More information about the course can be found on the commission's website at www.fish.state.pa.us.

Riverlands winter visits

Visitors to the Riverlands are welcome year-round. However, during the winter the park is only open during daylight hours. With shorter days, the gates are closed earlier. Scheduled closing time is always updated and posted at the entrances. Please be sure to note the closing time on your way in. Also, the public restrooms are closed for the season. Portable toilets are set up in the park for the winter, and public restrooms are still available at the Susquehanna Energy Information Center weekdays during regular business hours. The SEIC is not open on weekends unless there is a scheduled program.



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