

Inside



Brunner Island



Spring 2010

News for the neighbors of PPL's Brunner Island power plant

Cool operation begins at Brunner Island

New cooling towers minimize impact on Susquehanna River

Operators at the Brunner Island power plant in York County began using innovative new cooling towers in April.

Completed at the end of 2009, the cooling towers at Brunner Island are among the largest forced-draft cooling towers in the world and will help the plant protect aquatic life by reducing the temperature of water discharged to the Susquehanna River.

“PPL operates its plants in an environmentally responsible manner,” said Steve Marbaise, plant manager. “The cooling towers will ensure the plant minimizes its impact on the environment by reducing the temperature of the water discharged into

the Susquehanna River from late spring through early fall, when it can have the most benefit for aquatic life.”

The \$100 million investment in the cooling towers is one of the more visible projects among several that improved the plant's overall environmental performance. In addition to the cooling towers, the plant recently completed the installation of scrubbers that significantly reduce sulfur dioxide emissions; new treatment facilities for wastewater from the scrubbers; and new electrostatic precipitators at Units 2 and 3 to reduce particulate emissions.

Combined, these projects represent an investment of more than \$860 million

on new pollution controls at the plant, which generates enough electricity each year to power about 1 million typical homes and provides more than 250 full-time jobs for area residents.

Plant operators will use the cooling towers during the warmest times of the year. The towers will reduce temperature increases during those months when the river levels are lower and water temperature is naturally higher.

From late fall to early spring, river levels are higher and water temperatures are lower. In fact, discharge of warm water into the river during the winter creates a popular winter fishery at Brunner Island.



The cooling towers have four large vertical pumps operated by 3,500-horsepower motors. The pumps deliver more than a half-million gallons of water through 34 cooling cells every minute. Each cell has a fan that can be operated from digital displays in the plant's control room. Operators can adjust the speed and number of fans running based on the amount of water being discharged from the plant.



Brunner Island plant ships gypsum by train, reducing truck traffic

PPL's Brunner Island power plant recently started shipping synthetic gypsum by train, significantly reducing the amount of truck traffic to transport the material.

The synthetic gypsum that is collected and shipped by rail from Brunner Island is going to a United States Gypsum Co. facility in Ohio that beneficially uses the material to manufacture Fiberock®, construction sheeting that can be used in high-traffic and wet areas.

Synthetic gypsum is a byproduct of the plant's new scrubber system, which

helps reduce sulfur dioxide emissions.

"We started shipping gypsum by rail in January, and to date we have shipped more than 28,500 tons of the material," said Larry LaBuz, supervisor of Coal Combustion Products for PPL Generation. "That alone has eliminated the need for more than 1,200 trucks.

"We're anticipating shipping about 200,000 tons of gypsum a year," he said. "For each 60-car train of gypsum, we're reducing truck traffic by 240 vehicles on local roads in the plant area."

Recent plant improvements, including

PPL working to restore area wetlands

This summer PPL will begin a project to restore more than 7 acres of wetlands along the eastern shoreline of the Susquehanna River in Conoy Township.

The area, known as the Bainbridge Lock Swamp, is currently leased and used for farming. PPL will plant native trees and shrubs to return the habitat to its natural state.

The project will enhance the wetlands by increasing erosion control and stormwater retention, decreasing forest fragmentation in the area and providing an improved habitat for diverse wildlife such as woodland birds, turtles, snakes and amphibians.

The project, which is expected to cost \$300,000, will be completed by September.

the scrubbers, have resulted in increased truck traffic on local roads, which is a concern that municipal officials and plant neighbors have expressed to PPL.

"We're sympathetic to the concerns about increased truck traffic, and are looking to use rail shipments to the extent we can to minimize the amount of truck traffic around the plant," LaBuz said.

Work resumes on York Haven bypass

The spring weather has enabled PPL to resume work on the bypass road around residential areas of York Haven.

"We appreciate our neighbors' patience and understanding as we complete this project," said Steve Marbaise, Brunner Island plant manager. "The bypass road addresses a major concern in the community by safely rerouting truck traffic around York Haven."

In March, PPL began installing additional storm drains and removing

boulders. Paving on the road resumed in April; the final section of asphalt was laid for the intersection of Wago Road and Front Street. Efforts are being made to minimize erosion and environmental effects along the road.

The road, nearly a mile in length, will start just off the north end of Brunner Island and reconnect with Route 382 west of York Haven. Route 382 will be widened near the entrance as part of the work.

River Road will be closed during the remainder of the project, requiring a detour from Route 382 to Cly Road (Route 262). As the project moves toward completion, the intersection at Front and Locust streets (at Shelley's Restaurant) will be closed.

There will be signs directing motorists to a detour for access onto Brunner Island. And the intersection will be open and passable for residents living in the apartments along Front Street and near Shelley's.

Eagle Scout project benefits York Haven Elementary

Matt Cable, a Boy Scout from Troop 54 in York Haven, spruced up the courtyard behind the library at York Haven Elementary School to complete an Eagle Scout project.

Brunner Island power plant employees helped pay for the project, which Matt completed in October with the help of 16 volunteers.

The team Matt organized built and replaced houses for birds and butterflies, painted two existing benches and replaced another bench. Matt's team also edged and placed landscape fabric in flower beds and removed existing weeds in the walkway.

Matt, currently a ninth-grader at Central York High School, chose the project because he wanted to help students at the elementary school observe birds and butterflies. He started his Boy Scout career in the first grade as a Cub Scout and expects to receive his Eagle Scout rank in the summer.



Matt Cable, a Boy Scout from Troop 54 in York Haven, added landscaping and houses for birds and butterflies in a courtyard at York Haven Elementary School with help from Brunner Island employees.

Plant workers step in to fulfill 'souper' promise

When Tom Iozza, a mechanical planner who worked at PPL's Brunner Island power plant for 34 years, suddenly passed away in January, his co-workers stepped in to help support a local soup drive in his honor.

He was active in his church, the Bermudian Church of the Brethren in East Berlin. One of the last things he mentioned to his wife, Deb, was to remind her that there was soup by the door to take to the church. The church holds a soup drive to support local soup kitchens on Super Bowl Sunday.

His co-workers added to the "soup

by the door" by collecting more than 1,200 cans of soup. Tim Robertson, his supervisor, and Frank Pine, manager-Field Services at the plant, delivered the soup to the church in honor of Tom.



Tim Robertson, a mechanical foreman at PPL's Brunner Island plant, spearheaded a collection of soup to help fulfill a promise made by Tom Iozza, mechanical planner-Field Services, who passed away in January.

Flocking to online networks

Need a quick way to learn what's happening at PPL's Environmental Preserves?

Sign up for Twitter, a free online service that lets you keep in touch with short messages.

Then follow us at <http://twitter.com/pplpreserves> to get the latest news on how we preserve the land, care for endangered species and habitats, and provide opportunities for people to learn about and enjoy nature's beauty near PPL's generating facilities.



PPL Brunner Island
Wago Road
York Haven, PA 17370

Upcoming Events at Brunner Island

Susquehanna Aquacultures Fish Farm Tour

Thursday, May 13
10 a.m. to noon
Brunner Island Fishing Area
Registration required

Find out how your fish goes from the pond to the plate as we tour Susquehanna Aquacultures Inc. Susquehanna Aquacultures is one of the largest fish farms in the country, and uses warm water from the Brunner Island power plant to raise over 400,000 pounds of hybrid striped bass annually. This free public tour will show participants how the fish are hatched, fed and harvested. We will also cover the strict environmental controls under which Susquehanna Aquacultures operates. Space is limited to 50 people, and registration is required. For more information or to register, contact Karen Ament at 717-284-6274 or kament@pplweb.com.

Meet At Brunner Island Fishing Area. Directions: Travel to the south end of Brunner Island off Wago Road. At the stop sign, bear left at the Y and follow signs for the public fishing area. Stay on the paved road, keeping the fenced area on your left. Continue to the fishing area on the Susquehanna River for parking. Watch for the PPL event signs. GPS coordinates are N40 05.460 W76 41.228.

Getting Started with Geocaching

Saturday, June 12
10 a.m. to noon
Brunner Island Wetlands
Presenter: Kevin Stein

Geocaching is a treasure-hunting game using handheld GPS units to get people of all ages outside searching for hidden trinkets. It may sound technical and intimidating, but this program, presented by Kevin Stein, is designed to take the mystery out of it. Stein will cover the basics of GPS technology and provide some hands-on training. Then it's out into the field for a morning of hiking and fun.

If you have your own GPS unit, please bring it. If not, PPL will have a few loaner units available. Wear comfortable hiking clothes and dress for the weather. You may want to consider bringing a small trinket to exchange for one from the cache.

Meet at Wood Duck Pavilion at the Brunner Island Wetlands. From Wago Road across from the Main Gate A of PPL's Brunner Island power plant, turn onto the stone road. Continue to the sign for the Wood Duck Pavilion, turning right into parking area. The GPS coordinates at the pavilion are N 40 05.755 W 076 42.287. For additional information, contact Karen Ament at 717-284-6274 or kament@pplweb.com.