



Tom Eppheimer accepts new position at PPL

After 12 years as plant manager at Martins Creek, he will oversee improvement process for PPL power plants

Tom Eppheimer, manager of PPL's Martins Creek power plant since 1995, has accepted the position of project director for PPL Generation effective Feb. 12.

In his new job, he will oversee improvements to power plant work processes throughout the company.

"Tom has been committed to PPL for 33 years and dedicated to this plant and this community for the last 12 years," said Dennis Murphy, vice president and chief operating officer of PPL's Eastern Fossil and Hydro Generation. "His experience in power plant engineering and management make him the right person to help PPL continue to improve our power plant operations across the country."

Besides filling an immediate need within PPL Generation, the move supports a new business model for the Martins Creek plant, which is

preparing to shut down the two coal-fired units later this year, Murphy said.

The coal-fired units run continuously when they are available. They will be shut down for good in September. The two remaining units – which can burn oil or natural gas – will continue to run intermittently; they must be able to start up quickly and run reliably when needed.

PPL is putting an organization in place at the Martins Creek power plant to support this new focus. As a first step, the Martins Creek plant will join a group of similar PPL power plants, which includes Lower Mount Bethel Energy and plants in Maine, New York and Illinois. These "peaking" plants operate when electricity use is high.

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Working with community was very rewarding

By Tom Eppheimer
Martins Creek plant manager

Over the 12 years I have been plant manager at Martins Creek, I have had the opportunity and good fortune to get to know a lot of people.

The plant employees are a dedicated group of individuals. I have the utmost respect for their expertise and commitment. I'm proud to have worked with this team.

It has been rewarding to meet many local residents and neighbors. I have learned to respect and understand differing viewpoints and have seen that by working together we can achieve mutual understanding and an overall better outcome. This has been the case in my involvement with the Martins Creek Plant Advisory Committee and the Warren-Northampton Regional Air Quality Advisory Panel, and at various public meetings.

I leave Martins Creek with lots of good memories. I consider many plant employees and local residents my friends. I am proud of how PPL and employees at the Martins Creek plant have been open, involved in the community and committed to being good neighbors.

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Some pig!

Inspection tool helps make PPL's pipeline safer

How do you track the condition of an 84-mile underground pipeline?

PPL Interstate Energy Company, which manages the pipeline, relies on sophisticated electronic equipment that travels through the pipe, looking for signs of damage on the inside or outside of the pipe.

This high-tech equipment is known in the pipeline business as a pig.

The unglamorous name fits the appearance of the device, its method of travel (flowing along with the oil moving through the pipe) and its function (rooting through the pipe to check its condition), but not its value to PPL.

"It's the only way to tell what is going on inside the pipe," said Tom Dopsovic, supervisor of operations for PPL Interstate Energy. "As the pig moves through the pipe, it constantly records information that



Workers prepare to insert a pig into the PPL Interstate Energy pipeline at Marcus Hook, Pa. The sophisticated monitoring device checks the entire 84-mile pipeline for corrosion.

can tell us the exact location of any problems."

The U.S. Department of Transportation requires pipeline operators to run tools that can assess possible problems. PPL Interstate Energy has used pigs to inspect the pipeline for corrosion, cracking and damage resulting from unauthorized excavation work.

"We are using electronics and computers to make our pipeline



Mark Overholt (right), pipeline attendant for PPL Interstate Energy, checks as a monitoring device known as a "pig," used to check the pipeline for cracks, is removed from the pipeline at the Martins Creek terminal.

safer," Dopsovic said.

About 10 PPL Interstate Energy employees work at the pipeline terminal and dispatch center in Lower Mount Bethel Township.

Plans to shut down coal units move ahead

PPL has developed and is ready to proceed with plans to shut down the two coal-fired generating units at the Martins Creek power plant in September.

As part of a voluntary agreement with environmental agencies in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, PPL is retiring these units to reduce sulfur dioxide emissions. Since the 2003 agreement, the Martins Creek plant already has reduced sulfur dioxide emissions by 25 percent.

Shutting down these units also will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by about 1.3 million tons per year.

The coal-fired units at Martins Creek were built in the 1950s to meet the rapid growth in electricity use following World War II. At the time, they were PPL's largest coal-fired units. Now they are the smallest, but still generate enough electricity to power about 240,000 typical homes.

PPL will continue to operate the two remaining units at Martins Creek, which can run on oil or natural gas, as well as the new Lower Mount Bethel Energy plant, which is one of the cleanest natural gas power plants in the country.

John Mauser (right) instructs teachers during the November 2006 environmental awareness workshop.

Teaching teachers

PPL workshops focus on outdoor education

For the last six years, PPL Martins Creek has hosted environmental awareness workshops that have attracted teachers in Northampton and Warren counties.

The unique habitat and ecosystem that exists on PPL's land around the power plant and the adjacent Delaware River make it an ideal place to host an outdoor education program for teachers.

Teachers who attend receive credit toward their professional development requirements and pick up many useful ideas for the classroom to help students understand and appreciate environmental issues.

The last workshop at



Martins Creek, in November 2006, addressed land-use issues such as open space, protecting natural resources and supporting sustainable growth.

The next scheduled environmental workshops at Martins Creek are in late June. PPL will send details about these programs to local school districts. Teachers who would like to receive information about these programs should e-mail pplpreserves@pplweb.com or visit www.pplprojectearth.com and click on TEA Workshops.

New neighbor?



A bald eagle sits on a power line tower near DePues Road in Lower Mount Bethel Township. The new visitor was seen in the area in January, possibly scouting out a location for a new home. The eagle will join the osprey, kestrels and peregrine falcons that already call the area around PPL's Energy Center at Martins Creek their home.

Eppehimer

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Pete Giella, operations supervisor at the Martins Creek plant since 1995, will become plant manager under the new organization, reporting to Brad Piatt, manager of Peaking Power for PPL Generation.

Giella and Piatt will continue Eppehimer's community outreach efforts and work with the community advisory committee.

PPL Martins Creek
6605 Foul Rift Road
Bangor, PA 18013-4857

Nature events scheduled

Winged predators

Back by popular demand, this program for serious birders from 1:30-3 p.m. Feb. 25 covers the natural history and biology of raptors. See live birds and learn what puts them at the top of their food chain. The program is free, but registration is required.

Walk in the woods

Spring is a time of awakening and renewal. Join nature enthusiast and educator John Mauser for a walk in the woods from **1:30-3 p.m. March 11** for a look at how new seasons bring new life. The event is free, but registration is required.

Natural area dedication

As part of Earth Day, PPL Martins Creek will dedicate the Foul Rift Natural Area at **1 p.m. April 22** in the Cedars Pavilion on Foul Rift Road. After the dedication, naturalist Bill Sweeney will lead a wildflower walk from 1:30-2:30 p.m. From 2:30-4 p.m., you are invited to join a volunteer work party that will remove invasive plant species that threaten native wildflowers.

For information or to register for these events, call 570-251-6196 or e-mail pplpreserves@pplweb.com.

Christmas bird count

Local birders observed more than 8,000 birds of 57 different species at the annual Christmas Bird Count, held Dec. 31 at the PPL Martins Creek Environmental Preserve.

The bird count takes place each year on the Sunday after Christmas. The 2007 event will be on Dec. 30.

Working with community

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Under new plant manager Pete Giella and PPL's manager of Peaking Power Brad Piatt you will see no change in that commitment.

I wish everyone the best in 2007 and beyond.