

Inside Susquehanna PPL

December 2005 News for neighbors of the PPL Susquehanna nuclear power plant



Columbia County Commissioner Dave Kovach (left) discusses the Susquehanna plant with Bill Hecht, PPL's chairman and CEO.



Bryce Shriver, president of PPL Generation, (left) speaks with Sugarloaf Township supervisor Robert Stanzola.

Community Leaders Discuss Susquehanna with PPL's CEO

As part of PPL's commitment to regularly and openly communicate with residents near the Susquehanna plant, Bill Hecht, PPL's chairman and chief executive officer, invites local community leaders to an annual dinner meeting to discuss the plant, PPL and the electric utility industry.

More than 80 people joined Bill at the Berwick Golf Course for this year's meeting, held in October. There, they had the opportunity to discuss the company's work with state and federal lawmakers to improve the nation's energy future, which includes investing

in nuclear energy.

Also discussed were the plant's outages in 2005, the replacement of the emergency sirens, the plant's improved safety programs and options for storing spent fuel. Bill also talked with the group about our progress on projects to increase the plant's output and renew its license.

Other ways PPL communicates with local residents include holding regular meetings with various community groups, maintaining a public information center and producing this newsletter for all residents within 10 miles of the plant.

Industry Experts Rate Susquehanna's Performance as Solid

Dose rates that are among the lowest for boiling water reactors anywhere in the nation. Improved oversight of contractors. A sound decision-making model that helps ensure safety and reliability. These strengths were identified by a team of industry experts that evaluated Susquehanna's performance this fall. The results of the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations' biennial review show that Susquehanna has solid performance comparable to other well-performing plants in the U.S.

"We appreciate the evaluators' objective view of our strengths and the areas we need to improve," said Bob Saccone, vice president-Nuclear Operations. "Our goal is to sustain our strengths while making improvements in less effective areas."

The evaluation team, which focuses on safety and efficiency, suggested improving our ability to consistently maintain high work standards regarding housekeeping, safety, and the use of procedures and error-prevention techniques. They also suggested that employees improve several training courses and examine the practices of other top-performing nuclear plants.

"INPO's results are consistent with our own assessments, and we already have plans in place to address our weak areas and capitalize on our strengths," Bob said. "Their review also confirms we are doing the right work with the right focus on safety."

The team bases its evaluation on a thorough review of plant documents, employee interviews and observations of actual work being performed.

Investment in Susquehanna Signals Bright Future for Nuclear Plant

PPL Susquehanna continues work on two significant projects that will help local communities enjoy the plant's many benefits well into the future. PPL plans to submit applications to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission next year to install new equipment that will increase the amount of power generated and to renew its license.

PPL Susquehanna provides jobs, purchases local services and materials, contributes to the tax base, gives to local charitable organizations and operates environmental preserves. We also provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to power more than 1.7 million homes.

Nuclear power plants must receive NRC approval for power increases. We plan to submit our application for the power increase next March. The application contains comprehensive analyses of current plant equipment and planned improvements that demonstrate Susquehanna will continue to operate safely at the higher power levels. Planned improvements include installing new high-pressure turbines on each unit and modifying various other plant and

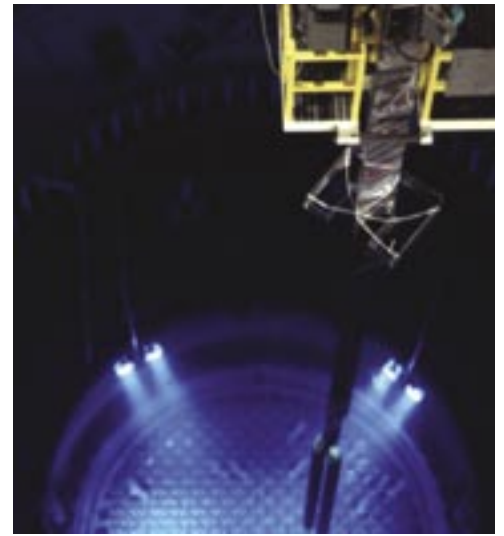
safety equipment. The modifications, which will increase each unit's average output by 100 megawatts, will be made over the next several spring outages starting with Unit 1 in 2006.

If the NRC determines the plant can operate safely for an extended period of time at the higher power level, they will amend our operating license and the first increase will occur in 2007.

The increased power levels will be reflected in the plant's application for license renewal, which we expect to submit to the NRC in September 2006. Renewing our license will allow the plant to operate for an additional 20 years beyond the 40 years permitted by our current license. The U.S. Congress set the initial 40-year term for operating licenses based on economic and antitrust considerations.

After receiving a license renewal application, the NRC takes about 22 to 30 months to reach a decision. NRC approval of Susquehanna's application would extend Unit 1's operating license to 2042 and Unit 2's to 2044.

The NRC will hold public meetings shortly after receiving the application.



Operators safely move fuel inside the reactor with a long-handled pole suspended from a platform.

Unit 1 Control Rod Operation Improved

Operators at PPL Susquehanna shut the Unit 1 reactor down for two weeks in November for maintenance work to improve the operation of the unit's control rods. The control rods are used to control the nuclear reaction and are capable of shutting the unit down at a moment's notice.

Routine testing indicated that some of the unit's control rods and fuel assemblies were experiencing increased friction, slowing their response time. Other nuclear plants in the United States have had similar issues.

"The unit's control rods would have safely shut down the reactor under all circumstances," said Bob Saccone, vice president-Nuclear Operations. "However, we decided to make these improvements when the cost of replacing the electricity needed for local communities is low, rather than run the risk of an unplanned winter outage when rates are higher."

Operators successfully refurbished and replaced the appropriate fuel assemblies, and the response time for all rods is now normal. PPL has kept the Nuclear Regulatory Commission well-informed ever since the rods first showed signs of slowing.

"We are committed to identifying and fixing equipment issues before they adversely affect the operation of the plant," Bob said.



Representative Charlie Dent Visits Susquehanna

U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (R-Allentown) visited Susquehanna in October to learn about the plant's security program. Dent serves on the congressional committees on Homeland Security, Government Reform, and Transportation and Infrastructure.

During Dent's visit, Susquehanna managers discussed the plant's physical security features and the company's

strategy for protecting equipment, employees and the public.

"I have worked with PPL for many years as a state representative and value the company's insights into energy-related issues," Dent said. "I appreciate the opportunity to review the plant's security systems."

Dent is one of several notable individuals to visit the plant over the

past two years, including Rep. Bill Adolph (R-Delaware County), U.S. Rep. Paul Kanjorski (D-Luzerne County), U.S. Attorney Thomas Marino of Pennsylvania's Middle District, and Gen. Jessica Wright, adjutant general of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Charlie Dent (left) discusses security with Mike Sleigh, Susquehanna's security manager.



State police officers from Troop P of Wyoming, Pa.



Pennsylvania State Police Perform Training Exercises at Susquehanna

Thirty-five state police officers held their quarterly drill at Susquehanna in October.

After the officers performed standard training exercises, Susquehanna security officers showed them around the plant and discussed the troop's role in the plant's defensive strategies.

"Having the officers on site allows them to see our plant's security features firsthand, which really helps them support us more effectively," said Mike Sleigh, Nuclear Security manager. "Working face to face with the state police officers enhances the very close working relationship we have with them."

Quarterly Drills Ensure Emergency Responders Are Ready at a Moment's Notice

Volunteer firefighters from the Salem Township, East Berwick, Shickshinny and Mocanaqua fire companies demonstrated their ability to quickly respond to the plant during a drill in November. This exercise is one of several held with local emergency agencies to ensure that plant and local emergency responders are well-prepared.

These community drills complement the extensive emergency preparedness drills Susquehanna holds four or five times a year. Different teams of more than 75 plant employees respond to each drill so Susquehanna has more than 300 responders qualified to handle actual events. Most of the plant drills also involve state and county emergency agencies.

"The ultimate goal of every responder is to protect the health and safety of plant workers and local residents," said Diane Coffin, supervisor-Nuclear Emergency Preparedness.

After each drill, employees perform a comprehensive critique about how to improve. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission frequently observes the drills and provides feedback to plant employees.

Do *you* know what to do in an emergency?

If not, read the emergency information in the blue pages of your local telephone book and make sure all family members know what to do. Knowing what to do *before* an emergency occurs will help you stay calm and take the appropriate actions safely.

If you hear the emergency sirens, which can be used for all types of emergencies, 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 Diane Coffin at 570-542-1723.

New Operators to Complete Rigorous Training

Several highly qualified operators will be joining the Susquehanna team in January after passing their licensed operator exams.

Nine candidates will take the exam this month. It consists of a written test as well as performance evaluations in the plant and the control room simulator.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission gives the exams, which are the culmination of a two-year-long training program that includes classes in physics, chemistry, thermodynamics and electrical and mechanical systems. It also provides hands-on training in normal and emergency situations in Susquehanna's control room simulator, which is a replica

of the actual control room.

The rigorous training, which requires studying outside of class, similar to a college-level course, ensures that the operators are not only well-trained, but also committed to their job and the safety of the plant.

After receiving their license, operators spend one week out of every six in continuing training to retain it.

Instructors for operator training are certified according to guidelines established by the National Academy of Nuclear Training, which accredits all of Susquehanna's operator training programs.

Left to right: Pete Brown, Ken Green, Doug LaMarca, Jay Barnes, Steve Koch, Steve Reid, Doug Sittler, Victoria Dennis and Delson Erb will be taking their licensed operator exams this month.



Funding for Yucca Mountain Reduced

Lawmakers recently agreed to spend \$450 million in 2006 on Yucca Mountain, the planned repository for the nation's radioactive nuclear waste. The amount is \$200 million less than requested by President Bush. The decrease in funding reflects a series of delays, including a stringent review of radiation standards. Because of these delays, it is unclear when the Department of

Energy will submit its application to open Yucca Mountain.

PPL continues to encourage legislators to facilitate the opening of the repository.

Along with the Yucca Mountain appropriation, lawmakers also agreed to spend \$50 million to promote the recycling of spent nuclear fuel.



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

Basic Boating Safety Class, Feb. 4.

The Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission will discuss boating safety and driving rules.

American Indian Artifact Exhibit,

Feb. 18. Explore many types of artifacts used by local indigenous peoples.

Winter Botany, Feb. 19.

Discover how to identify trees and plants in the winter during an outdoor walk.

Local Pioneer Life and Pastimes,

March 19. This historical presentation shows how our great-great-grandparents lived in the wilds of this area.

Spring Awakenings Walk,

March 25. Learn about the spring equinox, animal activities and early blooming plants during a walk around the Wetlands Nature Area.

Hard Coal, March 25. Van Wagner, songwriter and underground coal miner, celebrates the past and present of the region's coal industry.

Pennsylvania Amphibians and Reptiles Educator Workshop, April 5-6.

Receive guidance and educational material for teaching children (K-12) about Pennsylvania's amphibians and reptiles.

For more information about Susquehanna Riverlands programs or to receive PPL's *Environmental Currents* newsletter, call 1-570-542-2306 or visit our Web site at www.pplweb.com/seic.

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

Siren Replacement Project Nears Completion

PPL Susquehanna has installed nearly all of the 73 new emergency sirens planned for the 10-mile radius around the nuclear plant.

“The new sirens will help ensure that this vital piece of our community’s extensive emergency plan will operate well into the future,” said Lou Ramos, community relations manager for PPL Susquehanna. PPL also installed new transmitters that send signals to the sirens to sound. One of the major new features is that all sirens and transmitters now have a 10-day backup battery, so the sirens will sound even during power outages.

The company will perform a system-wide test of the new sirens and transmitters after the entire system is in place. Additional sirens may be installed after the initial test to ensure full coverage of the required area.

After testing demonstrates the system is functioning properly and the Federal Emergency Management Agency approves the system, PPL will remove the older sirens and poles.

The sirens are used in all types of emergencies to alert residents to tune in to local TV and radio stations for information.



Most of the new sirens, pictured on the left next to an older siren, are installed.

Siren Tests

We perform monthly silent tests on the sirens and sound them briefly every quarter. The entire system is activated for several minutes once a year. Upcoming regional sound tests:

Bloomsburg area:

The weeks of **Feb. 13 and May 8.**

Hazleton area:

The week of **March 13 and Dec. 5.**

Wilkes-Barre area:

The weeks of **Jan. 2 and April 10.**



A worker installs the electrical connections to one of the new sirens.



A message from Lou Ramos, Community Relations Manager for PPL Susquehanna.

Susquehanna employees help the United Way spread hope and compassion

Every year, PPL reaches out to employees, asking them to contribute to the United Way and every year, without fail, thousands

open their hearts and respond. This year, Susquehanna employees pledged more than \$235,000 to local United Way agencies. Our company has made matching donations to the local agencies totaling more than \$150,000.

We know that United Way organizations spread hope and compassion. They encourage, comfort and inspire individuals. And they lift up communities. In short, they represent values we care about. Contributing to the United Way gives all of us a way to touch as many lives as possible so we can make a difference in our communities.

Our company’s commitment to being

a good neighbor is strong because most of our employees and their families call Berwick and neighboring communities home. Along with giving to the United Way, we volunteer time in the community, sponsor educational outreach programs, maintain an environmental preserve and support economic development initiatives.

PPL employees across the nation have donated more than \$1.7 million to the United Way.

We care about the area’s success, we appreciate the support we’ve received from you, and we are proud to contribute to the United Way.



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

Giving Back

PPL employees and friends raised \$3,052 for the Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Association at the Sam Bonita Memorial Golf Tournament in September. ALS is better known as Lou Gehrig's disease.



The Berwick area United Way benefited from a motorcycle ride sponsored by PPL Susquehanna employees, retirees, family members and friends that raised \$910 in September.



PPL employees donated 60 pints of blood during a blood drive at the plant.



PPL Susquehanna employees and community members raised nearly \$1,000 for the Berwick YMCA at the annual Pumpkin Walk/Run held at the Susquehanna Riverlands and sponsored by PPL's Community of Volunteers and the Berwick Marathon Association.



Susquehanna employees donated 14 boxes filled with reading material, games, food and personal items to employees, and employees' family members, who are serving overseas in the military.

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.