

Child care center well prepared for emergencies



Leanne Grace of Rainbow Hill Child Care and Preschool reviews the school's emergency plan with Nevin Dressler, an emergency planner for PPL Susquehanna. PPL has helped several facilities with emergency plans, including the Berwick YMCA, Bonham Nursing Home, Johnson Elderly Care, and Camp Louise Girl Scout Camp.

If you ask, Leanne Grace will quickly pull out a notebook in her tidy office at the Rainbow Hill Child Care and Preschool and give you a "tour" of the school's emergency plan.

"As the director of the school, I am first and foremost concerned with the safety of our students," she said. "Being able to show parents that we are prepared for any type of emergency — no matter what the

cause — is one important way we gain their trust."

Rainbow Hill is one of about 90 "special needs facilities" in the 10-mile emergency planning zone surrounding the Susquehanna nuclear power plant. These facilities, which are the first to be notified by county and municipal agencies in any emergency, also include hospitals, nursing homes and Scout camps.

PPL Susquehanna helps these facilities meet their legal requirement to have comprehensive emergency plans. These plans must be reviewed and approved by either the Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare or the Pennsylvania Department of Education, depending on the facility. The plans are tested by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

PPL Susquehanna's emergency planners are available to assist special needs facilities in developing or reviewing plans.

"As a parent and a resident of the community, I understand the strong interest parents have in making sure their children are safe," said Nevin Dressler, an emergency planner for PPL Susquehanna who worked with Rainbow Hill on its emergency plan. "We help make sure that schools, day care centers and other facilities can get children to a safe location in any emergency and get them back to their families."

"A very important part of our plan is to make sure the parents of our students keep their emergency forms up-to-date so we can reach them quickly if we need to," Grace said.

Any organization or family-based childcare can contact PPL Susquehanna to review or help develop an emergency plan. Dressler also periodically offers a "Basics of Radiation" course to the public. He can be reached at 570-542-3627.

Being prepared for emergencies allows you to act confidently and sensibly when they occur.

1. Have a family plan for home or community emergencies, including a place to meet if you must leave your home.
2. Review the emergency instructions in the blue pages of local telephone books.
3. Review the emergency plan and policies for any family member in a special needs facility.

Siren upgrade nears completion

PPL Susquehanna is in the final stages of an upgrade to the siren system in the communities around the power plant.

Sirens are essential to emergency planning. They can be used to notify people of an emergency. When sirens sound for three to five minutes, it is a signal to tune to an Emergency Alert System (EAS) radio or television station for official information.

PPL has installed 76 new sirens. They replace the old network of 112 sirens that we put in about 25 years ago, at the time the plant was built. The new sirens are larger than the old ones, and provide as good – or better – sound coverage of the area, plus a battery backup so they can sound even if electric power is out.

New sirens will be tested this fall as we work toward acceptance of the system by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) before the end of the year. If you are near sirens during the testing, you will hear them sound.

We will test the entire system. We will advertise this test ahead of time so you know when it will occur and can listen to the sound of the new system.

As we work to complete acceptance of the new system, we will continue scheduled tests of the old sirens.

When the new siren system is accepted by DHS, we will remove the old sirens and the poles they are on. We expect to have the old sirens and poles removed by the spring of 2007.



PPL thanks local volunteers

Local emergency volunteers and their families enjoyed a day at Knoebels Amusement Park & Resort in appreciation for their work protecting our communities.

PPL Susquehanna employees Nevin Dressler and Ron Remsky work year-round with local volunteers to be sure they have up-to-date, comprehensive plans and are well-trained. Also, volunteers participate in a number of drills involving different types of emergencies.



Volunteers Art and Erma Jane Johnson of Union Township attend special event for community volunteers.

Protecting groundwater

PPL Susquehanna is moving forward with other companies in the nuclear power industry to improve monitoring and protection of groundwater around nuclear power plants.

We conduct detailed radiological monitoring of water, air and soil around the Susquehanna plant, and have since before the plant began producing electricity.

One of the byproducts of nuclear power generation that we test for is tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen that has been found in groundwater near other nuclear power plants at levels higher than occur naturally.

We have increased the number of groundwater samples we take near plant buildings, and are conducting studies to identify the best places for even more monitoring wells that we plan to add in 2007.

Results from groundwater testing around the Susquehanna plant have indicated consistently that we do not have a concern locally with elevated levels of tritium. The additional monitoring that we are doing provides even greater protection.

As we expand monitoring, we also are working with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and other nuclear power plant owners in the state to improve standards and procedures for notifying state and local officials and the public of any issues with tritium in groundwater.

Siren tests

We conduct frequent tests of the sirens around Susquehanna. Once every three months, we sound sirens briefly in each of three areas. The schedule for upcoming sound tests:

- Wilkes-Barre area, week of Oct. 9.
- Bloomsburg area, week of Nov. 6.
- Hazleton area, week of Dec. 4.

Plans for license renewal and power increase proceed

PPL's Susquehanna nuclear power plant has been important to the local community and the local economy for more than 20 years now.

We plan to remain a part of the community for many years to come. We are filing an application with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to renew the plant's operating license for an additional 20 years beyond the original 40-year license. You will be hearing more about this request in the months ahead.



Greenpeace founding member to speak locally

PPL Susquehanna is honored to present Dr. Patrick Moore, a co-founder of Greenpeace and former director of Greenpeace International, who will speak about "The Case for Nuclear Power" on Thursday, Nov. 9, at 7:30 p.m. at Berwick High School.

Dr. Moore will address the challenges of reducing carbon dioxide emissions and the crucial role nuclear power should have in our energy future as we deal with the effects of global warming.

He has been a leader in the environmental field for more than 30 years. He currently serves as chairman and chief scientist of Greenspirit Strategies, an environmental policy consulting firm. He also has written two books, "Pacific Spirit: The Forest Reborn" and "Green Spirit – Trees are the Answer."

Admission is free, but seating is limited and will be on a first come-first served basis.



Dr. Patrick Moore, one of the world's leading environmentalists for more than 30 years, will speak Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Berwick High School auditorium. PPL Susquehanna is sponsoring his visit.

In your **Community**

PPL partners with Game Commission for hunter safety

More than 75 local residents, mostly youth ages 11 to 15, attended the Hunter Safety course offered by the Pennsylvania Game Commission at the Susquehanna Riverlands in August.

"We appreciate the use of PPL's auditorium, which allows us to teach many people at the same time," said Jim Jolley, a wildlife conservation officer. "The course has reduced hunting incidents statewide and helps young adults understand their responsibilities when hunting."

The 12-hour course, which is required for first-time hunters in Pennsylvania,

is a very popular program at the Riverlands.

"The Game Commission has been a great partner for PPL. They patrol areas we open for hunting and have provided many seminars at our nature preserves," said John Fridman, assistant superintendent-Environmental Preserves.

PPL allows hunting on its land only on the east side of the river. Hunting on the west side, near the nuclear power plant, is prohibited. Visitors can pick up a hunting map at the Susquehanna Energy Information Center, one mile north of the plant along Route 11.

Women in Nuclear help local children

Children at the women's shelters in Berwick and Bloomsburg started this school year on a brighter note, thanks to members of Women in Nuclear group at the Susquehanna plant.

They collected about \$1,500 in donations — enough to fill 29 backpacks with school supplies, personal items and toys for the children.

"The day the children received the backpacks was like Christmas morning," said one of the women residing at the Bloomsburg shelter.



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Susquehanna Riverlands Environmental Preserve

Planet Walk

Saturday, Oct. 21, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

The Riverlands' Planet Walk, which follows part of the Towpath Trail, is a scale model of our Solar System. Join us as we blast off from the Sun and walk the flat and level trail. Along the way you will learn about the planets and other celestial tidbits. Meet at the Susquehanna Energy Information Center.

Great Pumpkin Run/Fun Walk

Saturday, Oct. 28, 10:30 a.m.

PPL Community of Volunteers, the Berwick YMCA, and the Berwick Marathon Association will sponsor the 5K Great Pumpkin Run/Fun Walk along trails of the Riverlands. The course is flat. For more information on registration, fees and

awards, call (570) 759-1300. All proceeds benefit the Berwick YMCA.

Tall Timber

Saturday, Nov. 4, 7 p.m.

Presented by Van Wagner

Van Wagner, a songwriter and historian, has worked on many independent logging projects. In this program, he talks about how timber was harvested, demonstrates tools spanning 200 years of logging history, and looks back on the days when millions of board feet of Pennsylvania timber were assembled into various styles of rafts and piloted down our streams and rivers.

Wild about Fish

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Presented by Walt Dietz, Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission

This workshop is for teachers and educators. Participants will receive a Project Wild Aquatic curriculum guide, lesson plans, fish posters, a Pennsylvania Fishes book and other workshop

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 Energy Information Center, 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.

materials. The curriculum is suitable for K-12 in both indoor and outdoor classrooms. A stream study field trip is part of the workshop. There is no charge for the workshop but space is limited. Participants should bring their own lunch. Call (570) 542-2306 to register.