

## PPL Susquehanna welcomes Tim Rausch

### Company's new chief nuclear officer values strong community ties

Tim Rausch, PPL's new chief nuclear officer, is a firm believer in the benefits of a strong relationship between the community and the Susquehanna nuclear power plant.

"I appreciate the support we have in this community," Rausch said. "I also believe in giving back to the community. PPL and its employees have had a long history of being involved in these communities and that will continue."

A 25-year veteran of the nuclear power business who has worked at plants in New Jersey and Ohio, he values support from plant neighbors, and how the plant and its employees contribute to the economic and social well-being of the community.

Rausch credited the employees of PPL Susquehanna for being a positive presence in the community, whether it's through United Way or volunteering with local charitable organizations, youth sports and scouting organizations.

"What attracted me to PPL was its

tradition of being a people-oriented company, and a company that respects its communities and works to make things better," Rausch said.

He credited that same employee base and sense of community for running one of the industry's best nuclear power plants.

"Our units run well because of our people and their uncompromising commitment to excellence and safety," Rausch said. "To maintain that tradition, we are preparing for staffing and training the next generation of nuclear professionals.

"We're a relatively new nuclear power plant, and are looking forward to renewing our operating licenses for an additional 20 years," he said. "Nuclear energy is a clean and reliable source of power and an important part of our nation's energy independence."

Rausch began his nuclear career with GPU Nuclear Corp. as an operator training instructor at the Oyster Creek



plant in New Jersey.

After moving to the Perry nuclear plant in Ohio, he served in various management positions before being named plant general manager in 2002.

In 2004, he accepted a position with Exelon Nuclear Corp. as design engineering director for the company's fleet of 17 nuclear units. In 2005, he was

*(Continued on page 3)*

## NRC completes safety evaluation of Susquehanna's license renewal application

PPL Susquehanna has moved one step closer to securing license renewals for its two nuclear reactors: The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's final safety evaluation report, received Aug. 28, said PPL adequately addressed all safety concerns regarding the plant.

"This is a major milestone for our license renewal project and keeps us on pace to finish the license renewals by the end of the year," said Tim Rausch, PPL's chief nuclear officer.

"We appreciate the confidence the NRC has shown in the

ability of our employees to operate the plant safely."

He said the NRC concluded that there are no open items that would preclude both units from operating for an additional 20 years.

PPL Susquehanna submitted its license renewal application in September 2006. The operating licenses for Susquehanna Units 1 and 2 would expire in 2022 and 2024, respectively. The renewal would extend those licenses to 2042 and 2044.

# Longtime employee named new plant manager

Jeffrey M. Helsel, who has nearly 30 years of experience at the Susquehanna nuclear power plant, has been named plant manager.

Helsel has been manager of Nuclear Training at PPL Susquehanna since last year and had served as Nuclear Operations manager at the plant for four years prior to that. He began his Susquehanna career in 1981 as an auxiliary system operator. Among other positions, he worked as a plant control operator, unit supervisor, outage supervisor and shift supervisor before being named Nuclear Operations manager in 2004.

A native of Cambria County, Helsel earned an associate degree in nuclear engineering technology from The Pennsylvania State University and is completing a bachelor's degree in nuclear technology at Excelsior College. He also maintained an active Nuclear



Jeffrey M. Helsel

Regulatory Commission operator license for 20 years.

Neil Gannon, who has served as vice president-Nuclear Operations, is retiring from PPL. "We are very appreciative of Neil's commitment and contribution to Susquehanna over the past three years, and we wish him well," said Tim Rausch, senior vice president and chief nuclear officer.

# Bus tours continuing this fall

The public is invited for free perimeter bus tours around PPL's Susquehanna power plant, offering a unique look at how the plant works and how it generates electricity reliably without fossil fuels or greenhouse gas emissions.

"All you have to do is call PPL's Susquehanna Energy Information Center to schedule a tour," said Joe Scopelliti, PPL Susquehanna's community relations manager.

"As part of our community outreach, we offer tours to individuals as well as school and civic groups," he said. "We're always eager to provide tours that explain how a nuclear power plant can help to secure the nation's energy independence, how the plant benefits the community, and how industry and nature can coexist."

Tours last about 45 minutes. Guests meet at the Susquehanna Energy Information Center, 634 Salem Blvd., across the road and down the hill from the plant where they get an overview of nuclear energy and plant history.

From there, they board a bus with wide windows for a panoramic view of the plant and the surrounding landscape. As the bus travels around the perimeter of the plant, a PPL host describes plant operations and answers questions.

To arrange a tour, call toll-free 1-866-832-3312.

The Susquehanna Energy Information Center is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays year-round, except holidays.

From June 1 to Sept. 1, the center also is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and from noon to 4 p.m. Sundays.

Arrangements should be made in advance for large group and individual tours.



# Siren test completed successfully

The new emergency sirens that serve the communities within a 10-mile radius of the PPL Susquehanna nuclear power plant were successfully tested Aug. 20.

"The siren system worked as designed, and we appreciate everyone's patience and understanding during the annual test," said Joe Scopelliti, Susquehanna's community relations manager. "The test ensures that the sirens are fully operational and can perform as designed to alert the community in the event of any type of emergency."

For example, he said, some of the sirens are shared with local fire companies, which use them for fire calls.

Only one full-scale siren test will be conducted this year and in future years now that the new system is in service.

The siren system was upgraded last year as part of Susquehanna's commitment to the health and safety of plant neighbors. The sirens are just one part of the overall system to alert the public. The sirens are an outdoor system that is just one part of the overall system to alert the public. The system also includes municipal alert teams and emergency messages on local radio and television stations.

## Archaeological survey under way at Bell Bend site

As part of the ongoing licensing process for the proposed Bell Bend nuclear power plant, an archaeological survey is being conducted to determine if any areas are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

“The archaeological survey is an important part of the licensing process,” said Joe Scopelliti, community relations manager for PPL. “We will make sure that all historically significant artifacts at the site are protected.”

The Bureau of Historic Preservation for the commonwealth of Pennsylvania has reviewed and agreed with the proposed archaeological survey of the land.

An archaeologist hired by PPL conducted an initial study from June 2007 through January 2008, followed by a field study to identify cultural resources from May to November 2008.

The second phase of the study began in July 2009. A report is expected to be sent to the state historic preservation officer in early 2010. At that point it will be determined if additional surveys are needed. The officer’s input will be used in preparing the environmental impact statement for the Bell Bend license application.

“Any artifacts recovered would be processed according to the state guidelines,” Scopelliti said. “The storage of those materials would be determined in consultation with the state.”

A final decision on whether to build the 1,600-megawatt nuclear generating unit on a site adjacent to the Susquehanna nuclear power plant is still several years in the future. It will depend on several factors, including PPL’s ability to attract investment partners, and the company’s success in securing a federal nuclear loan guarantee from the Department of Energy or other acceptable financing.

## PPL Susquehanna to host Fall Festival on Saturday, Oct. 10

To say “thank you” to all its neighbors, PPL Susquehanna will host a Fall Festival from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

Join us for a day of food and fun at the Riverlands Environmental Preserve, 634 Salem Blvd., across the road and down the hill from the plant.

“We’ll have free hayrides, face and pumpkin painting, and other activities for the kids along with special programs for adults,” said Joe Scopelliti, Susquehanna community relations manager. “We look forward to seeing all our neighbors back this year and encourage everyone to come and enjoy the fun.”

Berwick Hospital will have health and wellness information available, and local farmers will sell their produce. The Susquehanna Spinner’s Guild will have a demonstration area where visitors can see raw fleece spun into wool, and Quilters in Bloom will have a quilt show in the Energy Information Center. Perimeter bus tours of the nuclear plant will be leaving from the center throughout the day.

At 10:30 a.m. in the Information Center auditorium, Tonya Sagar will present a program on creating a forest garden and making your property a sustainable source of fresh-grown food.

**PPL Susquehanna**  
**Fall Festival**  
Oct. 10, 2009



## Tim Rausch *(Continued from page 1)*

promoted to engineering director for the entire Exelon fleet. In 2006, he was named site vice president at the Oyster Creek plant, which Exelon purchased from GPU Nuclear.

A native of Ohio, Rausch earned a Bachelor of Science in nuclear engineering from the University of Cincinnati and a Master of Business Administration from Cleveland State University.

In his free time, Rausch is an ice hockey fan and player. He also enjoys high school, college and professional football and likes to golf and run. He and his wife, Jan, have two children: a daughter, Alexandra, 15, and a son, Adam, 11.



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# Susquehanna Riverlands

## Environmental Preserve

### **Coal Mining Lore**

Sunday, Oct. 11, 2-3:30 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy Information Center  
Presenter: Steve Runkle, Susquehanna  
River Basin Commission

Local historian Steve Runkle will recount for us the personal story of his family who developed, owned and operated the company coal mine and village of Joller in Huntingdon County. Runkle will cover the 35 years of deep mining at Joller and how the workers and their families lived. The presentation will then move up to the present day to describe the successful efforts to reclaim the mine site and stop acid mine drainage.

Enhanced with period music, this program promises to be a fascinating look

into Pennsylvania's coal-mining history and the effects the past still has on us today.

### **Fall Color Walk**

Thursday, Oct. 15, and Saturday, Oct. 17,  
10:30 a.m. to noon

Meet at Council Cup parking lot  
Presenter: Clem McIntyre, Riverlands  
naturalist

The sights, sounds and smells of fall will come alive as you explore the unique habitat of Council Cup with naturalist Clem McIntyre. Vibrant autumn colors are the highlight of this program, but along the way we will get a chance to talk about autumn migrations, winter preparations and even a little Council Cup history. This program is being offered twice for those unable to attend the weekend session.

The walk will start at the Council Cup parking lot and take about an hour. Please plan to navigate some hilly terrain. For more information, call 1-866-832-3312.

### **Great Pumpkin Run/Fun Walk**

Saturday, Oct. 31, 10:30 a.m.

Susquehanna Riverlands, large pavilion

PPL's Community of Volunteers, the Berwick Area YMCA and the Berwick Marathon Association will sponsor the 5K Great Pumpkin Run/Fun Walk along the trails of the Susquehanna Riverlands. The course is flat and goes out and back with two loops. The walk will take the same course. More information on registration, fees and awards is available by calling the YMCA at 570-759-1300. All proceeds benefit the Berwick YMCA.

The Susquehanna Riverlands encompasses 1,200 acres on the east and west banks of the Susquehanna River. The Riverlands provides an array of opportunities for recreation and environmental awareness. For more information, call 1-800-354-8383 or e-mail [pplpreserves@pplweb.com](mailto:pplpreserves@pplweb.com).



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