

PPL chairman updates local leaders, donates \$100,000 for flood recovery

Jim Miller, chairman of PPL Corporation, provided elected officials and community leaders an update on the Susquehanna power plant at an October meeting at the Berwick Golf Club. He opened his remarks by recognizing the hardships caused by the recent flooding in the area, expressing his appreciation for those helping to clean up and rebuild, and extending a donation of \$100,000 from PPL for flood recovery efforts.

“Our thoughts have been with our PPL customers and plant neighbors who were affected by the recent spate of severe weather, including the flooding close to the Susquehanna plant,” Miller said.

“PPL is fortunate to have solid support from the community for our nuclear operations. You have been there when we needed you. Now we are here when you need us,” he said.

Some of the money will be given to emergency response organizations that directly support the Susquehanna power plant. The remaining money will be given



Susquehanna’s Chief Nuclear Officer Tim Rausch discusses community needs with Joy McGinnis, CEO of the Berwick Area United Way.

to the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation for distribution to fill other local needs.

The contribution is in addition to the \$25,000 PPL donated to the American Red Cross for flood relief in communities along the Susquehanna River, donations of money and goods by PPL businesses and employees, and hundreds of hours volunteered by PPL Susquehanna employees for the cleanup effort.

Miller also provided an update on activities at the plant including the plant’s recent extended outages on both units to repair small cracks on some turbine blades. The small cracks were found during a routine inspection.

“Although we never like surprises, we perform thousands of inspections every outage for that very reason — to find little problems before they become bigger problems,” Miller said.

During the outage, the plant completed a multiyear project to increase the amount of electricity it can safely generate by about 200 megawatts. Increasing the output of a proven, reliable and safe source of electricity generation is a very cost-effective way to meet the growth in electricity use.

Planned outages are an important part of the plant’s safety and reliability programs and positively affect the local economy.

Each outage brings more than 1,000 additional workers who shop at local businesses, eat at local restaurants, and stay at local hotels.

How to apply for flood relief grants

The Central Susquehanna Community Foundation has received donations for flood recovery efforts from a number of sources. Learn more about who’s eligible and how to apply for relief from the foundation’s website at www.csgiving.org.



Jim Schultz, left, a senior computer systems analyst, and senior engineer Jim Trunzo help with cleanup in Shickshinny after severe flooding there.

Susquehanna employees dig in to help others dig out

Shortly after the unprecedented flood in September, teams of Susquehanna employees helped clean up flood damage. The teams assisted residents and businesses in the Shickshinny, Bloomsburg and Orangeville areas.

A few Susquehanna employees were directly affected by the flood as well as their family members and friends; co-workers pitched in to help restore many of these homes.

“The Susquehanna plant is deeply rooted in our community. Our employees live here, and we’ve built strong relationships with many neighbors and local businesses that were affected by the flood,” said Russ Kearney, Susquehanna’s site vice president. “So we feel a strong conviction to reach out and share our resources — people and equipment — to help those affected by this historic flood.”

The flooding affected so many communities that Susquehanna canceled its annual fall emergency drill with county and municipal emergency management agencies. The plant has organized these optional practice drills at the request of counties and municipalities for the past 20 years. The plant expects to resume holding its annual drill next fall.

Regulators, industry peers prompt needed improvements

After an annual plant inspection earlier this year, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission concluded that Susquehanna is safely operated but has some issues to address. The NRC performs a large inspection at the plant every year to complement the smaller inspections performed daily by the two resident inspectors.

The commission identified weaknesses with Susquehanna’s

procedure program and its program for identifying and fixing issues. Some of these issues contributed to several shutdowns of the Unit 1 reactor that resulted in additional inspections by the NRC next year.

Employees have been evaluating the reasons for those shutdowns and will make the changes needed to prevent recurrence.



PPL’s Chief Executive Officer Bill Spence (left) and Chief Nuclear Officer Tim Rausch attend a meeting of nuclear operators from around the world.

Nuclear industry learning from world events

This year’s natural events have had profound effects on the nuclear power business and proven once again that events half a world away can have local significance.

The earthquake and tsunami in the Fukushima region of Japan led to one of the worst nuclear accidents in the history of commercial nuclear power. PPL is continuing to work with the industry and regulatory agencies to fully understand the effects of the Japanese event and to make our safe plants even safer.

PPL’s President and Chief Executive Officer Bill Spence and PPL Susquehanna’s Chief Nuclear Officer Tim Rausch attended a meeting of the World Association of Nuclear Operators in China in November. WANO is

Susquehanna Riverlands reopened; wetlands to open early next year

Most areas of the Susquehanna Riverlands, which had been closed since early September because of flood damage, are once again open to the public. Stop by to hike along scenic trails in the Riverlands Recreation and Council Cup areas. The Wetlands Nature Area, which remains closed, will reopen early next year.

Because of the flooding, the Fish and Game Commission did not stock trout

composed of senior leaders of nuclear plants from around the world who meet regularly to ensure nuclear safety and excellence in operational performance.

At the meeting, leaders discussed including more robust measures for responding to emergencies as part of WANO's strong focus on accident prevention programs.

The first formal industry recommendation resulting from the Japanese event is to ensure that backup battery power for safety systems can be maintained for 24 hours if all other sources of power are not available.

Susquehanna has multiple backup power systems, including battery backup and a diesel-powered battery recharger. Employees are evaluating the recommendations to see what additional measures may need to be taken.

The importance of being prepared for natural events was underscored again by the East Coast earthquake in August.

Susquehanna's seismic monitoring equipment detected the earthquake, and operators performed thorough walkdowns to monitor and inspect plant equipment.

Those inspections confirmed there was no damage at Susquehanna, and the plant operated safely throughout the event. The smooth operations highlighted the value of the plant's robust design, multiple safety features and proven operating procedures.

in Lake Took-A-While in October and the Riverlands annual Fall Festival was canceled.

"Canceling the fall festival was a difficult decision but safety was our overriding concern," said Joe Scopelliti, community relations manager for Susquehanna.

"I appreciate the understanding expressed by vendors and others who had planned to participate. We are looking forward to continuing the tradition by holding the event again next fall."



Joe Scopelliti

Local United Way agencies benefit from PPL, employee generosity

PPL Susquehanna and employees have long supported United Way agencies in the community and have once again stepped up to contribute generously during PPL's annual United Way campaign. Final results will be totaled by the end of the year.

"PPL and its employees know the value of the many services offered by nonprofit agencies in their communities," said Tim Rausch, PPL's chief nuclear officer.

"Ensuring those services continue is one way we demonstrate our commitment to bolstering the health of our communities."



As part of the campaign, Susquehanna employees raised more than \$67,000 for the Berwick Area United Way through a golf tournament at the Berwick Golf Club. Joining them in the effort were employees of local businesses and vendors who support the power plant. PPL Susquehanna business partners contributed a number of prizes for raffles, a hole-in-one and other golf competitions.

The plant also held a chili cookoff that raised more than \$7,000 for the United Way.

Buck McHenry, left, and Jesse Titus, who shot his first hole in one at the event, sport festive Halloween garb for the Oct. 31 event.

Susquehanna employees support education, public welfare

Susquehanna employees are committed to the communities in which they live and work by sponsoring fundraisers, science education and work days in the communities surrounding the plant.

Here's what our employees have been doing lately:

- Held science fairs in elementary schools in the Berwick, Bloomsburg and Northwest school districts.
- Spearheaded an annual community donation drive for backpacks and school supplies for more than 300 students in the Berwick Area School District.
- Held a spaghetti dinner fundraiser that garnered \$1,800 for Beyond Violence, a women's shelter in Berwick, and the Children's Service Center in Wilkes-Barre.
- Landscaped and cleaned equipment at a park near Salem Township's municipal building.
- Helped restore the Boy Scout's Camp Lavigne near Benton that was damaged by recent storms.



Members of Susquehanna's Women in Nuclear group stand next to some of the backpacks they collected for the Berwick School District.



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Animal Skulls and What They Tell Us
Sunday, Jan. 15, 1:30-3 p.m.

Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presented by: Dr. James Montgomery,
Environmental Studies Director,
Ecology III

How do skulls show us the adaptations that help an animal compete in its environment? How can you tell a meat-eating animal from a plant-eater? Jim Montgomery will answer these questions and more in this compelling program.

All About Owls for Kids

Saturday, Feb. 4
10-11:30 a.m. and 1-2:30 p.m.
Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presenter: John Fridman, Supervisor,
Susquehanna Riverlands

Preregistration required. Call toll-free
1-866-832-3312.

The night skies belong to the owl. These superb hunters fly silently, detect prey from a distance and strike with pinpoint accuracy on even the darkest night. Children ages 7-14 will be able to dissect a regurgitated owl pellet to see what it reveals about the owl.

American Indian Artifact Exhibit

Saturday, Feb. 25, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presenter: Pennsylvania Indian Artifact
Collectors Association

Local association members will display their collections of tools, weapons and trade items and discuss the use and history of the pieces. Flint-knapping demonstrations and an atlatl (spear-thrower) exhibition will be held, weather permitting. Visitors can bring artifacts they have found for identification. For

more information, contact Bill Vezendy
at 570-759-1792.

Pennsylvania Basic Boating Class

Saturday, March 24, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Susquehanna Energy Information Center
Presenter: Pennsylvania Fish & Boat
Commission
For ages 12 and over. Preregistration
is required.
Call toll-free 1-866-832-3312.

The Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission boating safety class gives boaters practical information so they can make more informed decisions on the water. Students who pass the exam at the end of the course can receive their boating safety education certificate for a \$10 fee.

More information about the course and who is required to have the certificate can be found on the commission's website at www.fish.state.pa.us.



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