

Russ Kearney joins PPL Susquehanna as site vice president



Russ Kearney, a 30-year veteran of the nuclear power industry, became site vice president for the Susquehanna plant on June 6.

Kearney came to PPL Susquehanna from the Clinton Power Station, a single-unit Boiling Water Reactor in Clinton, Ill., that is part of the Exelon Corporation fleet of nuclear plants. He had been site vice president at the Clinton Station since January 2008.

The position was created after a review of other U.S. nuclear plants showed most have a site vice president. Kearney will report to Tim Rausch, chief nuclear officer. Plant Manager Jeff Helsel will report to Kearney.

“Coming here presented an opportunity to use my experience to help the Susquehanna plant move to a new level of operational excellence,” Kearney said. “In the few months that we’ve been here, my wife and I have been impressed with the friendliness and welcoming attitude of all the people we’ve met.”

Armed with plans to be accomplished in 30 days, 60 days and 90 days, Kearney said his first month on the job was focused on getting to know the plant, its employees and the area.

“Although there will certainly be more of that to do, the next focus is on the strategic initiatives that we’ve identified in the Susquehanna plant’s Excellence Plan in the areas of safety, work environment, managing station work, continuous performance improvement, employee learning and development, and improving equipment reliability.”

During his tenure as site vice president, the Clinton plant was recognized by the independent Institute of Nuclear Power Operations as one of the top-performing plants in the United States.

Kearney holds a Bachelor of Science in nuclear technology from Excelsior College in Albany, N.Y., has completed management programs at the University of Michigan, and has completed INPO’s Senior Nuclear Plant Management course. He served in the U.S. Navy’s nuclear power training program from 1976 to 1982.



PPL to test warning sirens Aug. 18

The annual test of all the sirens in the Susquehanna nuclear plant emergency notification system is scheduled for Aug. 18.

The sirens will sound once for three minutes at 11 a.m. The annual siren test helps plant officials ensure the emergency warning system is working properly. PPL Susquehanna will, of course, address any problems identified to maintain 100 percent performance from the system.

The public does not need to respond to the test. After the sirens sound, local Emergency Alert System radio and television stations will carry a message about the test.

The sirens can be used to notify the community of emergencies, not only at the plant, but for any emergency. Some of the sirens are shared with local fire companies, which use them for fire calls.

Turbine blade repairs completed on both Susquehanna plant units

Both units at the Susquehanna plant returned to service in late June following repairs to turbine blades.

Small cracks on the Unit 2 turbine blades had been discovered during a routine inspection conducted as part of that unit's refueling and maintenance outage, which began in April. As a precaution following that discovery, PPL shut down Unit 1 to inspect its turbine blades and found similar issues. The damaged turbine blades on both units were replaced.

The Susquehanna nuclear plant's two units produce electricity by boiling water to create steam that passes through turbines, each with hundreds of fanlike blades on rotating parts. The turbines turn a main generator on each unit to produce electricity.

"Our team did an excellent job addressing the unexpected challenge of the turbine blade replacements as well as replacing about 40 percent of the uranium fuel and completing more than 2,500 maintenance tasks and equipment

upgrades during the Unit 2 outage," said Tim Rausch, PPL's chief nuclear officer.

"We have comprehensive programs for maintaining, testing and upgrading equipment at the Susquehanna plant," Rausch said. "We identified the turbine blade damage through a planned inspection. Thorough inspections of plant components are done on a regular basis to ensure that the plant will continue to operate safely."

The planned upgrade work on Unit 2 included installing an integrated digital control system for plant equipment and replacing other turbines that power pumps that provide water to the reactor vessel. The work concluded a project begun in 2008 to increase the amount of electricity the Susquehanna nuclear plant can generate.

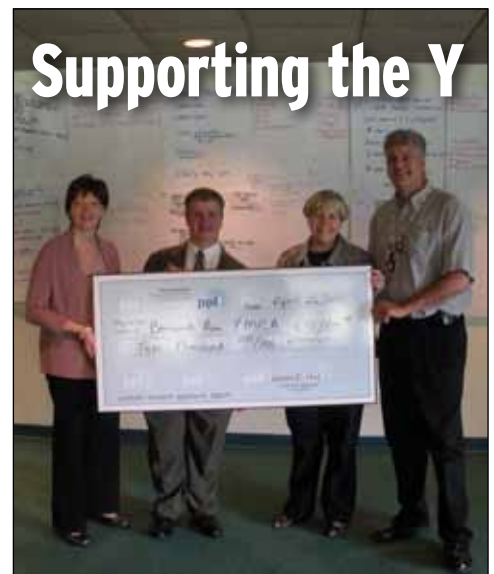
PPL Susquehanna will use diagnostic equipment that is being installed on the turbines to test for possible sources of blade vibration, which is believed to be the cause of the damage.

Stop by
for a Visit

If you'd like to learn more about nuclear energy, stop by the Susquehanna Energy Information Center on Route 11 in Salem Township.

We offer guided perimeter tours of the Susquehanna plant along with a short film about energy and interactive displays. It's free, interesting, fun and an educational activity for all ages.

We're open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays year-round, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and noon to 4 p.m. Sundays from June 1 to Sept. 1.



As part of PPL's \$70,000 pledge to the Berwick YMCA capital campaign, Teri MacBride (left), regional community relations director, and Joe Scopelliti (right), Susquehanna community relations manager, present a check for \$10,000 to Nick Pajovich, YMCA executive director, and Nancy Bishop, YMCA board past president.

Susquehanna employee organizations promote community events

Susquehanna plant employees are active contributors to community organizations, and strong supporters of local schools.

The Women in Nuclear group held science fairs in elementary schools in the Berwick, Bloomsburg and Northwest school districts this year. The group also is spearheading its annual community donation drive for backpacks and other school supplies for students in the Berwick Area School District.

Last year, more than 300 children benefited from the new supplies. Women in Nuclear members also were involved with a number of other community-sponsored organizations and events including Rotary, the Berwick Area United Way, Scouting and health fairs.

Another community event sponsored by Susquehanna employees this year was a spaghetti dinner that raised \$1,800 each for Beyond Violence, a women's shelter in Berwick, and the Children's Service Center in Wilkes-Barre.

The newly formed North American Young Generation in Nuclear organization will hold one of its first community events in Salem Township by landscaping, cleaning and maintaining park equipment near the township's park.



Nuclear safety at the Susquehanna power plant

The devastating effect of the March 11 earthquake and tsunamis on Japan, and in particular on the Fukushima nuclear power plant, has focused attention on the safety features of nuclear power plants worldwide. The nuclear energy industry globally is supporting Japan and its nuclear experts as they work through the serious challenges they continue to face.

At the Susquehanna plant, we took actions immediately to verify measures that were already in place to help the plant respond to severe events such as the loss of electricity, fires, floods and earthquakes of a magnitude that could occur in northeastern Pennsylvania.

“The nuclear power industry worldwide is learning from the events in Japan and will use what it learns to better prepare for natural and man-made disasters,” said Tim Rausch, PPL Susquehanna's chief nuclear officer.

Beyond the construction criteria, multiple and redundant safety features are in place at the Susquehanna plant. Plant safety systems get electricity from two independent power lines in the grid that feed into two independent power transformers. Inside the plant are four separate distribution points for providing power to emergency cooling

systems that maintain water level in the reactors if normal cooling systems are not available.

If power from the grid were not available, the Susquehanna plant has five diesel generators, with fuel supply at the plant to run each of the generators for seven days. The five diesel generators are able to feed any of the four electrical distribution points for the emergency cooling systems.

The emergency cooling systems can draw water from a variety of sources in addition to the Susquehanna River. The plant has two 300,000-gallon reserve water tanks, a 1 million-gallon pool of water below the reactor and an 8-acre, 25 million-gallon man-made pond on plant property.

Beyond the physical features of the Susquehanna plant, PPL has conservative operating procedures that place nuclear and public safety above all other factors. The plant — in conjunction with federal, state and local government agencies — has a robust emergency plan to protect and inform the public. We practice the plan several times a year, and the plan is evaluated regularly by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Federal Emergency Management Agency.



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Everyone in your home should review the emergency information in your telephone book or by clicking on "Emergency Information" at www.pplweb.com/ppi+generation/ppi+Susquehanna.htm.



Fishing Skills Instructor Workshop
Wednesday, Aug. 10, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Preregistration required. Call toll-free
1-866-832-3312.

The Fishing Skills Instructor workshop is designed to teach adult leaders how to teach our youth basic fishing skills and aquatic ecology. Certified instructors then teach SMART Angler classes and family fishing programs. Participants receive training on basic aquatic ecology, fishing skills, teaching techniques and equipment access. The workshop is particularly useful to rangers, park educators, sporting club leaders, camp counselors and outdoor education teachers. This workshop is free and participants should bring a bagged lunch.

Hunter/Fur-Taker Education Course

Thursday, Aug. 12, 6-9:30 p.m.
Friday, Aug. 13, 6-9:30 p.m.
Saturday, Aug. 14, 8 a.m. to noon

The Susquehanna Riverlands will host the Pennsylvania Game Commission's three-day, 10-hour hunter/fur-taker education course at the Susquehanna Energy Information Center. First-time hunters and trappers must attend all three sessions and pass a written exam to qualify for a 2011 license. A certificate of training is awarded to graduates, and this certificate must be presented to initially purchase a hunting or fur-taking license.

Participants must be at least 11 years old. This program is free, but has limited room. Preregistration is required at the Pennsylvania Game Commission website at <http://www.pgc.state.pa.us>. No registrations will be taken by the Susquehanna Riverlands.

Marvelous Wild Mushrooms of PA Sunday, Sept. 25, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Prompted by rainy weather, mushrooms seem to pop up overnight in gardens, fields and forests. Some are colorful, others drab. They grow in a variety of fantastic shapes and can be difficult to identify. Bill Russell, author of "Field Guide to Wild Mushrooms of Pennsylvania and the Mid Atlantic," will help unravel the often confusing world of mushroom identification. This program will be held at the Susquehanna Information Center.



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