

November 14, 2006

The Honorable James W. Ransom, Chief
St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS CONCERNING THE SUSQUEHANNA STEAM
ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
REVIEW

Dear Chief Ransom:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from PPL Susquehanna, LLC (PPL), for the renewal of the operating licenses for the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES), located along the Susquehanna River approximately five miles northeast of Berwick, Pennsylvania. SSES is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians. As described below, the NRC's process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* 51.28(b) [10 CFR 51.28(b)], the NRC invites the St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for up to 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years, if NRC requirements are met. The current operating licenses for SSES, Units 1 and 2, will expire on July 17, 2022, and March 23, 2024, respectively. PPL submitted its application for renewal of the SSES operating licenses in a letter dated September 13, 2006.

The NRC is gathering information for a SSES site-specific supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The GEIS is a programmatic environmental impact statement; it documents the NRC staff's assessment of environmental impacts that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site. The supplement to the GEIS will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the SSES site that are related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others), and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action. Enclosed for your information is a map showing the location of the SSES site.

To accommodate interested members of the public, the NRC will hold two identical public scoping meetings for the SSES license renewal supplement to the GEIS on November 15, 2006, at the Eagles Building, 107 South Market Street, Berwick, Pennsylvania. The first meeting will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during informal discussions.

The license renewal application (LRA) and the GEIS are publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams/web-based.html>. The accession number for the LRA is ML062620157. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems in accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC's PDR reference staff by telephone at 1-800-397-4209, or 301-415-4737, or via e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov.

The SSES LRA is also available on the internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/susquehanna.html>. In addition, the following public libraries have agreed to make the LRA available for public inspection: Berwick Public Library, 205 Chestnut Street, Berwick, Pennsylvania 18603; and the Mill Memorial Library, 495 E. Main Street, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania 18634.

Please submit any comments the St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by January 2, 2007. Written comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C. 20555-0001. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC by e-mail at SusquehannaEIS@nrc.gov. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached, and mail a copy to you.

The staff expects to publish the draft supplement to the GEIS in December 2007. The NRC will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) will be sent to you for your

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review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS. The issuance of a final SEIS for SSES is planned for August 2008. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Ms. Alicia Mullins, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-1224 or via e-mail at axm7@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

Robert Shaaf for **/RA/**

Rani L. Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-387 and 50-388

Enclosure:
SSES Location Map

cc w/encl: See next page

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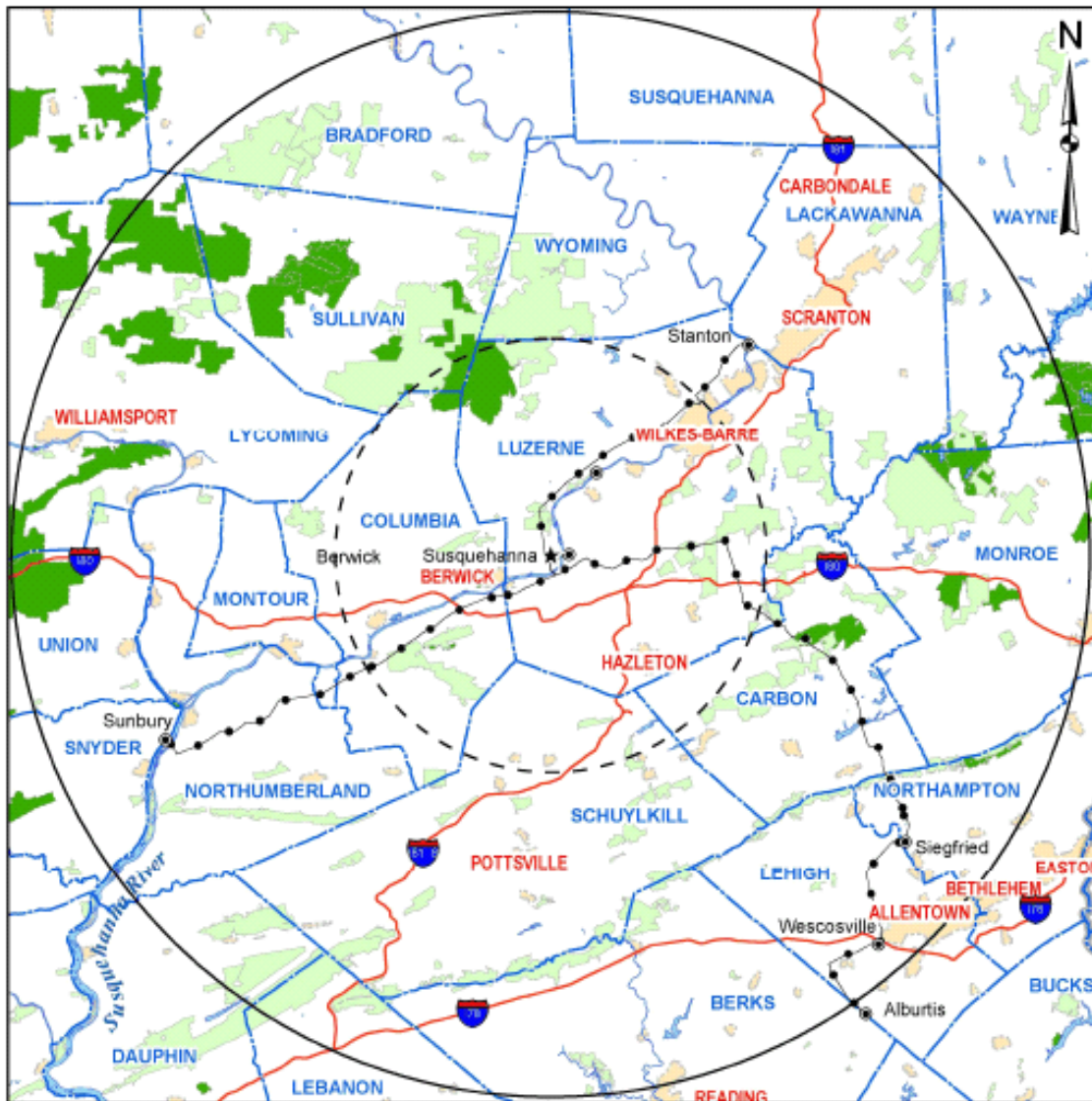
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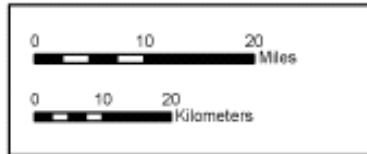
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NAME	I. King	S. Lopas J. Davis for	A. Mullins J. Davis for	J. Davis	R. Franovich R. Schaaf for
DATE	11/09/06	11/14/06	11/14/06	11/13/06	11/14/06

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY



Legend

- ★ Susquehanna Steam Electric Station - (SSES)
- Electric Substation
- - - 20 Mile Radius
- ▭ 50 Mile Radius
- Transmission Line
- Game Lands
- State Parks
- Urban Area



**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM
ELECTRIC STATION
Figure 2.1-1
50-Mile-Vicinity Map**

Letter to J.W. Ransom, from R. Franovich, dated: November 14, 2006

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS CONCERNING THE SUSQUEHANNA STEAM
ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
REVIEW

DISTRIBUTION:

Email

F. Gillespie / P.T. Kuo (RidsNrrDir)

R. Franovich (RidsNrrDirRebb)

E. Benner (RidsNrrDirReba)

R. Schaaf

A. Mullins

S. Lopas

J. Davis

F. Monette (fmonette@anl.gov)

Y. Diaz-Sanabria

E. Gettys

R. Guzman

A. Blamey

N. Sheehan, RI

R. Conte, RI

RidsOGCMailRoom

DLR/REBB

DLR/REBB

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2

cc:

Robert A. Saccone
General Manager - Nuclear Operations
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
769 Salem Blvd., NUCSB3
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

Terry L. Harpster
General Manager - Plant Support
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
769 Salem Blvd., NUCSA4
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

Rocco R. Sgarro
Manager - Nuclear Regulatory Affairs
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
Two North Ninth Street, GENPL4
Allentown, PA 18101-1179

Walter E. Morrissey
Supervising Engineer
Nuclear Regulatory Affairs
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
769 Salem Blvd., NUCSA4
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

Michael H. Crowthers
Supervising Engineer
Nuclear Regulatory Affairs
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
Two North Ninth Street, GENPL4
Allentown, PA 18101-1179

Steven M. Cook
Manager - Quality Assurance
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
769 Salem Blvd., NUCSB2
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

Luis A. Ramos
Community Relations Manager,
Susquehanna
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
634 Salem Blvd., SSO
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

Bryan A. Snapp, Esq.
Associate General Counsel
PPL Services Corporation
Two North Ninth Street, GENTW3
Allentown, PA 18101-1179

Supervisor - Document Control Services
PPL Susquehanna, LLC
Two North Ninth Street, GENPL4
Allentown, PA 18101-1179

Richard W. Osborne
Allegheny Electric Cooperative, Inc.
212 Locust Street
P.O. Box 1266
Harrisburg, PA 17108-1266

Director, Bureau of Radiation Protection
Pennsylvania Department of
Environmental Protection
P.O. Box 8469
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8469

Senior Resident Inspector
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 35, NUCSA4
Berwick, PA 18603-0035

Regional Administrator, Region 1
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Board of Supervisors
Salem Township
P.O. Box 405
Berwick, PA 18603-0035

Dr. Judith Johnsrud
National Energy Committee
Sierra Club
443 Orlando Avenue
State College, PA 16803

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2

cc:

Mr. James Ross
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Don L. Klima, Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Office of Federal Agency Programs
1100 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004

Susan M. Zacher, Historic Structures
Section Chief
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum
Commission
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Mark Hartle, Chief, Aquatic Resources
Section
Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
Environmental Services
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9620

Jennifer Kagel, Fishery Biologist
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, PA 16801-4850

Alice Zaikoski, Co-Director
Berwick Public Library
205 Chestnut Street
Berwick, PA 18603

Clifford Farides, Executive Director
Mill Memorial Library
495 E. Main Street
Nanticoke, PA 18634

Ms. Chris Firestone, Native Plant Program
Manager
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry
Forest Advisory Services
P.O. Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-1673

Raymond Cline, Trust Board Chairman
Delaware Trust Board
220 NW Virginia Avenue
Bartlesville, OK 74003

Paul Spicer, Chief
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1283
Miami, OK 74355

Barry E. Snyder, Sr., President
Seneca Nation of Indians
P.O. Box 231
Salamanca, NY 14779

Roger Hill, Chief
Tonawanda Band of Seneca
7027 Meadville Road
Basom, NY 14013

Ray Halbritter, Nation Representative
Oneida Indian Nation
5218 Patrick Road
Verona, NY 13478

James W. Ransom, Chief
St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians
412 State Route 37
Akwesasne, NY 13655

Irving Powless, Jr., Chief
Onondaga Indian Nation
RR #1, Box 319-B
Nedrow, NY 13120

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2

cc:

The Honorable Clint Halftown
Heron Clan Representative
Cayuga Nation
P.O. Box 11
Versailles, NY 14168

Leo R. Henry, Clerk, Chief
Tuscarora Nation
2006 Mt. Hope Road
via: Lewistown, NY 14092

Karen Kaniatobe, THPO
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

Larry Nuckolls, Governor
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

Timothy Two Guns
Cayuga Nation
P.O. Box 11
Versailles, NY 14168

Tamara Francis, NAGPRA Director
Delaware Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005

Darrin Ahshapanek, EPA Director
Delaware Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005

Charles D. Enyart, Chief
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 350
Seneca, MO 64865

Roxane Weldon, EPA Director
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 350
Seneca, MO 64865

Anthony Wonderley, Oneida Nation
Historian
Oneida Indian Nation
221 Union Street
P.O. Box 662
Oneida, NY 13421

Brian Patterson Bear Clan Representative,
Men's Council
Oneida Indian Nation
Annex Bldg.
579 Main Street
Oneida, NY 13421

Stephen J. Selden, Esq.
General Council
5218 Patrick Road
Verona, NY 13478

Gerald Danforth, Chairman
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 365
Oneida, WI 54155-0365

Corina Williams, THPO
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 365
Oneida, WI 54155-0365

Tony Gonyea, Faithkeeper
Onondaga Nation
RR #1, Route 11A
Box 258C
via: Nedrow, NY 13120

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2

cc:

Kathleen Mitchell
Seneca Nation of Indians
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
467 Center St.
Salamanca, NY 14779

Paul Barton, Historic Preservation Officer
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1283
Miami, OK 74355

Marion Sizemore, Environmental Director
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1283
Miami, OK 74355

Chief Leroy Howard
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1283
Miami, OK 74355

Sheree Bonaparte, Historic Preservation
Officer
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
412 State Route 37
Akwasasne, NY 13655

Ken Jocks, Director
Environmental Division
RR #1, Box 8a
Hogansburg, NY 13655

Ron Sparkman, Chairman
Shawnee Tribe
29 South 69a Highway
Miami, OK 74354

Rebecca Hawkins, Tribal Historic
Preservation Officer
Shawnee Tribe
29 South 69a Highway
Miami, OK 74354

Tribal Chairman
Shawnee Tribe
29 South 69a Highway
Miami, OK 74354

Robert Chicks, Tribal Chairman
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the
Mohican Nation, Wisconsin
Route 1
P.O. Box 70
Bowler, WI 54416

Sherry White, Cultural Preservation Officer
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the
Mohican Nation, Wisconsin
Route 1
P.O. Box 70
Bowler, WI 54416

Greg Bunker
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of the
Mohican Nation, Wisconsin
Route 1
P.O. Box 70
Bowler, WI 54416

Stuart Patterson, Chief
1983 Upper Mountain Road
Tuscarora Nation
via: Sanborn, NY 14132

Tuscarora Environmental Program
Neil Patterson, Jr., Director
2045 Upper Mountain Road
Tuscarora Nation
via: Sanborn, NY 14132