

May 2, 2008

Mr. Wayne Spilove, Historic Structures Section Chief  
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission  
Bureau for Historic Preservation  
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
400 North Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

SUBJECT: SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION, UNITS 1 AND 2, LICENSE  
RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW (BHP REFERENCE ER 05-1588-079-C)

Dear Mr. Spilove:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or staff) is reviewing an application to renew the operating license for Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, Units 1 and 2 (SSES), which is located in Salem Township, Luzerne County, PA. SSES is operated by PPL Susquehanna, LLC (PPL Susquehanna). As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared a draft site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants," NUREG-1437. The DSEIS includes analyses of relevant environmental issues, including potential impacts to historic, archeological, and cultural properties from extended operation and refurbishment activities associated with license renewal. In accordance with our letter to you dated November 1, 2006, a copy of the DSEIS is enclosed. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c), we are requesting your comments on the DSEIS and on our preliminary conclusions regarding historic and archaeological properties.

As stated in our November 1, 2006, letter the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effect for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs that may be impacted by post-license renewal land disturbing operation or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. PPL Susquehanna stated in their environmental report that they have not identified any refurbishment activities for license renewal.

The NRC staff has conducted an environmental audit at the site and has reviewed historic and archaeological records. The NRC staff also contacted 15 Native American Tribes identified as having potential interest in the proposed undertaking. To date, no comments have been received.

In the context of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, under which the DSEIS was prepared, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that the impact of license renewal on historical and archaeological resources is moderate. Though current procedures effectively address known historic and archaeological resources onsite, they do not address the potential for site-disturbing activities to affect unknown or potential resources. Potential mitigation measures include improvements to PPL Susquehanna's procedures for addressing onsite discoveries or surveying the entire site for historic and archaeological resources, and training

W. Spilove

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PPL Susquehanna staff in Section 106 processes. Under the provisions of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the NRC staff's preliminary determination is that as yet unknown historic properties onsite may be affected by the proposed action if PPL Susquehanna does not implement additional mitigation. Please note that the period for public comment expires on July 21, 2008. If your office requires additional time or if there are any other questions regarding this correspondence, please have your representative contact the Environmental Project Manager, Mr. Drew Stuyvenberg at 301-415-4006 or [Andrew.Stuyvenberg@nrc.gov](mailto:Andrew.Stuyvenberg@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**\RA\**

Louise Lund, Branch Chief  
Renewal Projects Branch 1  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-387 and 50-388

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: Steve McDougal

W. Spilove

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Sincerely,

**\RA\**

Louise Lund, Branch Chief  
Renewal Projects Branch 1  
Division of License Renewal  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-387 and 50-388

Enclosure:  
As stated

cc: S. McDougal

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Letter to W. Spilove from L. Lund, dated May 02, 2008

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RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW (BHP REFERENCE ER 05-1588-079-C)

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JDavis

AStuyvenberg

fmonette@anl.gov

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RidsOGCMailRoom

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station,  
Units 1 and 2

cc:

Cornelius J. Gannon  
Vice President - Nuclear Operations  
PPL Susquehanna, LLC  
769 Salem Blvd., NUCSB3  
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

Robert M. Paley  
General Manager - Plant Support  
PPL Susquehanna, LLC  
769 Salem Blvd., NUCSB2  
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

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

Supervisor - Nuclear Regulatory Affairs  
PPL Susquehanna, LLC  
769 Salem Blvd., NUCSA4  
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

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

Ronald E. Smith  
General Manager - Site Preparedness  
and Services  
PPL Susquehanna, LLC  
769 Salem Blvd., NUCSA4  
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

Michael H. Rose  
Manager - Quality Assurance  
PPL Susquehanna, LLC  
769 Salem Blvd., NUCSB2  
Berwick, PA 18603-0467

Joseph J. Scopelliti  
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

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  
Rachel Carson State Office Building  
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

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station,       -2-  
Units 1 and 2

cc:

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