



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715

JUL 07 2008

Operations Division

Ms. Irene W. Yu
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike MS T7-E30
Rockville, Maryland 20852

Dear Ms. Yu:


This is in reference to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) permit pre-application consultation, **NAB-2008-01401-P13 (PENNSYLVANIA POWER & LIGHT)**, concerning the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant project. The proposed project is located off S.R. 11, adjacent to the Susquehanna River, Walker Run, unnamed tributaries to Walker Run, and forested wetlands, in Berwick, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1501.6 and 1508.8) define and address agency roles to facilitate cooperation and compliance under NEPA. Cooperating agencies are encouraged to participate in the NEPA process early on and provide information and environmental analyses for which they have special expertise to the lead agency, in this case the NRC. The benefits of cooperating agency participation in the preparation of documentation and analyses include avoiding duplication with other Federal, State, and local procedures as well as enhancing the ability of the agencies to adopt environmental documents for making decisions. The Corps has the responsibility and authority to regulate portions of the proposal that affect waters of the U.S., including jurisdictional wetlands, and has the expertise necessary to assist the NRC with meeting its statutory requirements. Therefore, in accordance with the CEQ regulations, we are requesting to be designated as a cooperating agency for the EIS for this project.

We would appreciate being invited to provide comments during the development of the EIS, and we look forward to working with you as a cooperating agency.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call the project manager,
Ms. Amy Elliott at (814) 235-0573.

Sincerely,


Margaret E. Gaffney-Smith
Chief, Regulatory Branch

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region III
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, State College Field Office
PADEP, Northeast Regional Office
PA Fish & Boat Commission
PA Historical and Museum Commission
Luzerne County Conservation District
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