

Northeast Pennsylvania
**Manufacturers and Employers
Association**

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Your Business Resource Partner

September 22, 2008

Nuclear Regulatory Commission
C/o Michael A. Canova
Project Manager
EPR Project Branch - Mailstop T-7E18
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors
11545 Rockville Place
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers Association, I am writing to show our support of the proposed Bell Band Nuclear Unit located in Berwick, Pennsylvania.

We must continue to support the expansion of nuclear energy to maintain jobs and economic growth in America. Pennsylvania ranks high among U.S. states for electricity generation and consumption. It is also a major nuclear power generator: each of Pennsylvania's five nuclear power plants operate at 94.5% capacity and in 2006 were responsible for generating 75,297,632 mega watt hours (mwh) of electricity; more than a third of Pennsylvania's total electricity generation for the year. By 2030, the Mid Atlantic Grid (NJ, NY, PA) will require 12.70 quadrillion Btu's of electricity per year, a 13% increase from 2006. With the United States electricity demand projected to increase by 25% by 2030, energy demand and prices is an important issue in every state.

Nuclear energy is safe and secure. Strict government regulations, continuous training by the industry, and enhanced security measures have combined to ensure safety inside and outside of America's nuclear power plants.

Nuclear energy provides an affordable, safe, and reliable source of energy. It is our nation's largest source of electricity that does not produce greenhouse gases. Unlike some other energy sources, nuclear energy is not subject to unreliable weather or climate conditions, unpredictable cost of fluctuations, or dependence on foreign suppliers.

Nuclear energy boosts economic growth and supports high paying jobs. A Bell Band Nuclear Unit would create thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of new permanent jobs which would benefit the economic health of our region and state.

A Bell Band Nuclear Unit would create a significant ripple effect throughout the local economy that will help the housing market, retail businesses, and service providers such as restaurants and hotels.

PPL and its employees support the community in many ways, making the area a better place for people to live and work. This in turn makes the area more attractive to industries considering locating or expanding their operations here.

PPL has been a strong supporter of economic development, helping our organization by providing over \$50,000 in financial support in the last year. Martha Herron, PPL Community Relations Director, has served on the Board of Directors and is our immediate past chairwoman.

Nuclear energy has been part of our community for the past 25 years. We support nuclear energy and, based on our experience, would welcome a new advanced-design plant here.

It is imperative that industry, government and educators join together to support the growth of nuclear energy to stimulate our economy, protect our environment, and create good jobs here at home.

Respectfully,



Darlene J. Robbins, President
Northeast Pennsylvania Manufacturers and Employers
Manufacturers and Employers Association

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