

The Chamber

September 19, 2008

Mr. Michael A. Canova
Project Manager
EPR Project Branch-Mailstop T-7E18
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Officer of New Reactors
11545 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-2738

Dear Mr. Canova;

I am writing on behalf of the Greater Hazleton Chamber of Commerce in support of construction of the proposed Bell Bend nuclear plant. The Chamber realizes that a robust electricity infrastructure is an essential element in attracting new industry to a region and we have seen first-hand of this success in the current nuclear plant in the Berwick area.

The Berwick facility had created thousands of construction jobs and hundreds of new permanent jobs and we foresee the same with the construction of a new facility. The new facility would also provide a ripple effect throughout the local economy assisting the housing market, retail businesses and service providers such as restaurants and hotels.

PPL has been a strong supporter of our community and our Chamber for many, many years. PPL has supported many Chamber initiatives financially as well as providing volunteers to serve on our board and many other committees. Locally, Martha Herron has been a true asset to not only our Chamber but the entire Greater Hazleton area.

In closing, nuclear energy has been a part of the Greater Hazleton area for the past twenty-five years and based on our experience, we would welcome a new advanced-design plant here.

Sincerely,



Donna Palermo
President