

BBNPCEm Resource

From: Karen Walsh [kwalsh@paenergyalliance.com]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:59 PM
To: BBNPCOLEIS Resource
Subject: Comments on Bell Bend
Attachments: Bell Bend-NRC statement.doc

I'd like to include the following statement in your public comments section for the NRC's hearing about the environmental impact of the proposed Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant (Docket No. 52-039):

**Statement of Karen L. Walsh
Executive Director, PA Energy Alliance
January 29, 2009**

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of the proposed Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant.

As the executive director of the Pennsylvania Energy Alliance, I speak for a group of independent community leaders and organizations representing environmental, business, scientific, labor, and health care interests. We have formed this coalition to support nuclear energy and to advocate for additional clean, safe and reliable sources of electricity generation in our Commonwealth.

As you know, Pennsylvania is the nation's second largest producer of nuclear energy. One-third of our electricity comes from this carbon-free source. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania also has the distinction of ranking 4th highest in the nation in carbon dioxide emissions, 2nd highest in sulfur dioxide emissions and 5th highest in nitrogen oxide emissions. Over the next 10 years, our electricity demand is expected to rise 1.5% a year.

To meet our ever-increasing demand for electricity in a way that does not destroy our environment, we need a diverse energy mix that includes nuclear power, cleaner fossil fuels, renewable sources, and energy efficiency. However, conservation alone will not offset the expected growth in our electricity use and renewable sources like wind and solar are unreliable.

Nuclear energy is the only source that can reliably generate electricity around-the-clock for millions of consumers with no harmful greenhouse gas emissions. Each year in the United States, nuclear-generated electricity avoids almost 700 million tons of carbon dioxide, three million tons of sulfur dioxide and one million tons of nitrogen oxide.

The environmental benefits of nuclear power are just some of the reasons why the PA Energy Alliance supports the continued safe operation of Pennsylvania's nuclear industry.

The Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant would significantly increase the percentage of electricity that PPL generates from non-carbon sources - currently at 40 percent - and provide a reliable source of electricity that does not contribute to global warming.

Furthermore, there is no evidence that the Bell Bend project will negatively impact the Susquehanna River or the surrounding area. The river, we all agree, is a precious public resource that is effectively managed by the Susquehanna River Basin Commission and deserving of our utmost protection.

Our confidence in the environmental benefits of the Bell Bend project rests, in large part, on PPL's proven history of responsible monitoring in the area near the Susquehanna plant. PPL's commitment to protecting Pennsylvania's environment extends to voluntarily protecting nearby wildlife and their habitats. For nearly four decades, PPL has conducted radiological studies of the air, water, soil, crops, plants and wildlife and found no significant environmental impact.

The PA Energy Alliance appreciates this opportunity to formally voice our support for the proposed Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant and its goal of providing a clean, safe and reliable source of electricity for over one million homes in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Thank you.

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Comment Number: 2

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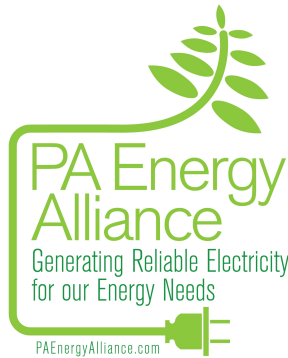
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