

May 27, 2009

Terry L. Harpster
Vice President
PPL Bell Bend, LLC
38 Bomboy Lane, Suite 2
Berwick, PA 18603

SUBJECT: BELL BEND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION
REVIEW SCHEDULE

Dear Mr. Harpster:

This letter transmits the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant (BBNPP) Combined License Application (COLA) review schedule. Based on the currently published schedule, identified above, the NRC staff intends to complete its safety review of the BBNPP COLA and issue a Final Safety Evaluation Report (FSER) in March 2012. Milestones for the four phases (Phases A through D) of the safety review are provided in the enclosure to this letter. The NRC staff intends to complete its environmental review of the BBNPP COLA and issue a Final Environmental Impact statement (FEIS) for BBNPP in March, 2011. Milestones for the four phases of the environmental review are also provided in the enclosure to this letter. Because the review schedule for the Calvert Cliffs Unit 3 combined license application, which is the Reference COLA for the design center, is currently under re-evaluation, the review schedule provided in this letter will also be re-evaluated. Once this evaluation is completed, if necessary, the NRC will issue a revised schedule.

In the NRC's application acceptance and docketing letter dated December 19, 2008 (Agencywide Documents and Access Management System [ADAMS] Accession Number ML083460607), the NRC indicated that the development of the COLA review schedule was dependent on the submission of certain information in the area of seismology that was necessary in order to complete the establishment of the overall review schedule. These information needs have been addressed by supplements provided by your organization and subsequently incorporated into Revision 1 of your application dated February 27, 2009 (ADAMS Accession Number ML090710441).

There are several areas of concern that could have adverse impact on the enclosed milestone schedule. As of May 26, 2009, new requirements associated with *cyber security* (10CFR 73.54) and *mitigative strategies to address loss of large areas* (10 CFR 50.54(hh)(2)) apply to the COLA sec 74FR13926. You will need to submit the information needed to demonstrate compliance with these requirements, and the staff will review that information. In addition, the staff understands that a setpoint control program (SCP) will be employed in Technical Specifications. However, a SCP has yet to be developed and submitted for staff review in the context of the EPR design certification or the EPR RCOL application. Finally, the environmental site audit which was completed the week of April 27, 2009 identified issues regarding water resource availability and wetlands impacts. The NRC staff has initiated discussions with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of our joint Memorandum of

Understanding (MOU) and with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission (SRBC) regarding these issues. These issues contribute considerable uncertainty outside of the NRC staff's control to predict with accuracy some of the staff schedules and resource needs in these areas. These staff schedules and resource needs will be re-evaluated once the necessary applicant information has been provided, further interactions with the Corps of Engineers and SRBC have been conducted, and, for the issues related to cyber security, necessary staff guidance and direction have been established.

The staff will also re-evaluate the overall schedule when the last RAIs are issued, prior to development of the safety evaluation report with no open items. At that point, the staff may establish new milestones in Phases B through D based on the number and complexity of the unresolved items. The schedule assumes technically correct and complete responses within 30 days of receipt to NRC's RAIs. For any RAIs that cannot be answered within 30 days, it is expected that a date for receipt of this information will be provided to the staff within the 30 day period so that the staff can assess how this information will impact the published schedule.

Finally, any significant changes or additions to the COLA or supporting documentation could impact scheduled completion dates.

It is the staff's intent to establish a predictable review schedule and a review process that supports identification and resolution of complex issues as early in the review as possible. To that end, the staff intends to interact with PPL Bell Bend LLC as the review progresses to address open items, schedule details, and potential schedule refinements.

If you have any questions or comments concerning this matter, I can be reached at 301-415-0737 or via e-mail address at michael.canova@nrc.gov. Questions or comments regarding the environmental review schedule should be directed to Ms. Stacey Imboden at 301-415-2462 or via e-mail at stacey.imboden@nrc.gov

Sincerely,

/RA/

Michael A. Canova, Project Manager
US EPR Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-039

Enclosure: As stated

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,
/RA/
 Michael A. Canova, Project Manager
 US EPR Projects Branch
 Division of New Reactor Licensing
 Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-039
 Enclosure: As stated
 cc: See next page

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ADAMS Accession Number: ML091260419

NRO-002

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DATE	04/21/09	05/06/09	05/07/09	05/12/09	05/13/09
OFFICE	DSP/DDRS/RS:BC	OGC	DNRL/NARP: BC	DNRL: DD	
NAME	DHuyck*	RWeisman*	JColaccino MM for	FAkstulewicz	
DATE	05/15/09	05/22/09	05/26/09	05/27/09	

**Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant Combined License Application
Review Milestones**

Key Milestones	
<i>Safety Review</i>	
Phase A - Requests for Additional Information (RAIs) Issued to Applicant	6/30/2010
Phase B - Advanced Final Safety Evaluation Report (SER) without Open Items	7/22/2011
Phase C - ACRS Review of Advanced Final SER (currently generic data)	11/28/2011
Phase D - Final SER (currently generic data)	3/21/2012
<i>Environmental Review</i>	
Phase 1 - Environmental impact statement (EIS) summary report issued	8/5/2009
Phase 2 - Draft EIS issued to EPA	4/23/2010
Phase 3 - Response to public comments on draft EIS issued	11/4/2010
Phase 4 - Final EIS issued to EPA	3/31/2011

ENCLOSURE

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(Revised 04/16/2009)

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