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Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology
Frances Dorrance Chapter #11
Ted Baird, Chapter Representative
RR 6, Box 6070
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**BELL BEND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT**
**INVITATION TO CONSULT AS AN INTERESTED PARTY UNDER SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT**
**BNP-2009-406 Docket No. 52-039**

Dear Mr. Baird:

PPL Bell Bend, LLC (PPL) and UniStar Nuclear Development, LLC (UniStar) are proposing construction of a new nuclear power generating unit adjacent to PPL's existing Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) in Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania (see figure in Enclosure 2). In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA), UniStar and PPL are soliciting consultation from interested local parties on the proposed Undertaking's impact on historic resources. GAI Consultants, Inc. (GAI) was contracted to assist in these efforts.

Between June 2007 and October 2009, GAI conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey, Phase II National Register Site Evaluation fieldwork, and field studies for a Criteria of Effects Evaluation for Architectural and Historical Resources within the approximately 893 acre (361 hectare) project Area of Potential Effect (APE). The purpose of the Phase I survey was to identify cultural resources within the project area, to evaluate the eligibility of identified architectural and historical resources for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), and to provide recommendations on the potential National Register eligibility of identified archaeological sites. Phase II studies are being performed to conclusively determine NRHP eligibility of potentially-eligible archaeological sites that cannot be avoided by project construction. Phase II fieldwork was completed in October 2009 and laboratory analysis and report preparation are currently ongoing. The Criteria of Effects study is evaluating potential project impacts to NRHP-eligible architectural and historical resources. The results of cultural resources investigations completed to date, as summarized below, were presented in reports that have been reviewed by the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission/Bureau for Historic Preservation (PHMC/BHP); the results of Phase II studies and the Criteria of Effects Evaluation will be presented in reports scheduled for submittal in 2010. Copies of these reports can be made available for your review upon request.

Phase I investigations of the project APE included background research, Phase Ia geomorphological and archaeological reconnaissance, Phase Ib archaeological survey (initial and supplemental), and an architectural survey. The Phase Ib survey identified 11 archaeological sites and 25 isolated archaeological finds within the project area. Based on

Phase Ib results and PHMC/BHP's concurrence on site eligibility recommendations, seven of the 11 identified archaeological sites were concluded to be Potentially Eligible for listing in the NRHP. Because these seven potentially-eligible archaeological sites could not be avoided by proposed construction activities, Phase II National Register Site Evaluations were conducted to conclusively determine their NRHP eligibility. As noted above, Phase II fieldwork for all seven sites has been completed and analysis and eligibility evaluations are in progress. The seven sites include six historic period sites (36LU279, 36LU280, 36LU281, 36LU283, 36LU285, and 36LU286) representing early to mid 19th century through 20th century occupations, and one Early Archaic through Early Woodland period prehistoric site (36LU288).

The architectural survey identified 52 architectural and historical resources within the project's viewshed. Based on Phase I results and PHMC/BHP review, 20 of these properties have been determined Not Eligible for listing in the NRHP. Concurrence on eligibility recommendations for the remaining properties is pending further review by PHMC/BHP. Six properties for which concurrence is pending are located within the footprint of proposed project construction. These six properties include three recommended as NRHP-Eligible—a stone arch bridge, portions of the North Branch Pennsylvania Canal, and portions of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railway; and three recommended as Not Eligible—a farm, a house, and portions of the Susquehanna and Tioga Turnpike.

PPL and UniStar would like to extend an invitation to your organization to participate as a consulting party in this project. As a consulting party, you will have the opportunity to review mitigation plans and provide input on proposed mitigation actions. Please complete the attached Request for Consulting Party Status form and return it to my attention in the pre-addressed envelope. We kindly request the favor of your reply within 30 calendar days of receipt of this invitation. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at 570-802-8102.

Respectfully,

Rocco R. Sgarro

Enclosures: 1) Request for Consulting Party Status Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant Project Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

2) Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant Site Topographic Map

RRS/kw

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