

February 17, 2010

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 REVISION

Dear Mr. Harpster:

This letter transmits the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant (BBNPP) Combined License Application (COLA) revised review schedule. Based on the enclosed schedule, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff intends to complete its safety review of the BBNPP COLA and issue a Final Safety Evaluation Report (FSER) in August 2012. Milestones for the four phases (Phases A through D) of the safety review are provided in the enclosure to this letter. In your letter dated December 8, 2009 (Agency-wide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS) Accession Number ML093450345) PPL Bell Bend, LLC identified a major design change for this application, which entails a relocation of the U.S. EPR powerblock, and outlined a schedule for submission of new information supplements related to your Final Safety Analysis Report. As a result of discussions with PPL Bell Bend, LLC management, the submission schedule for the information related to Chapter 2, Section 2.5 (Geology, Seismology and Geotechnical Engineering) identified in the aforementioned schedule letter is being re-assessed by PPL and will be factored into the overall schedule at a later date.

Your letter dated December 8, 2009, stated that individual sections of Part 3 of the Application (Environmental Report) will be submitted throughout the 2010 calendar year. The NRC staff plans to review the information as it is submitted, and provided the submittals are deemed sufficient, the NRC staff intends to publish a revised Environmental Review schedule sometime during the 2010 calendar year.

The original application information was reviewed during the "Acceptance Review" phase and both the schedule and the manpower projections were developed based on information content that has been supplied. Because the NRC staff has not seen the revised detail the applicant intends to submit, the NRC will re-assess the resource requirements and schedule for each area of review, once their related supplements are received.

As described in the original schedule letter dated May 27, 2009 (ADAMS Accession Number ML091260419) the NRC's intention was to issue a schedule revision, if necessary, to provide alignment with the Calvert Cliffs Unit 3 COLA, which is the Reference COLA for the design center. This safety review schedule revision reflects that alignment as of this date. Further changes to your design submittal schedule or the Reference Combined License (R-COL) applicant's schedule may necessitate additional changes to the Bell Bend review schedule.

We also note that any significant additional changes or additions to the COLA or supporting documentation could also impact scheduled completion dates.

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

Any questions or comments concerning the safety review schedule should be directed to Mr. Michael Canova at 301-415-0737 or via e-mail at michael.canova@nrc.gov. Questions 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/

Frank Akstulewicz,
Deputy Director for Licensing Operations
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-039

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

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Any questions or comments concerning the safety review schedule should be directed to Mr. Michael Canova at 301-415-0737 or via e-mail at michael.canova@nrc.gov. Questions 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/

Frank Akstulewicz,
Deputy Director for Licensing Operations
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-039

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

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NRO-002

OFFICE	DNRL/NARP:PM	DNRL/NARP:LA	DSER/RAP3:PM	DSER/RAP:BC
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OFFICE	OGC	DNRL/NARP: BC	DNRL: DD	
NAME	RWeisman	JColaccino	FAkstulewicz	
DATE	02/4/10	02/16/10	02/17/10	

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**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	3/20/2011
Phase B - Advanced Final Safety Evaluation Report (SER) without Open Items	3/2012
Phase C - ACRS Review of Advanced Final SER	6/2012
Phase D - Final SER	8/2012

ENCLOSURE

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cc:

(Revised 02/16/2010)

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