



January 14, 2011

Ms. Kathy Gipe  
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission  
Division of Environmental Services  
Natural Diversity Section  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

**BELL BEND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT  
SIR #35087, SPECIES IMPACT REVIEW  
NORTHERN CRICKET FROG  
BNP-2011-004      Docket No. 52-039**

References: 1) PAFBC-2010-283, Christopher Urban, PFBC, to Bradley Wise, "Species Impact Review (SIR) – Rare, Candidate, Threatened and Endangered Species, Update to SIR 27486", October 14, 2010

PPL Bell Bend, LLC is providing herein a response to the Commission's correspondence of October 14, 2010 (SIR 35087, update to SIR 27486)(Reference 1). Specifically, PPL is providing information requested by the Commission to aid in the assessment of potential impact to the newly listed as "endangered" Northern cricket frog (*Acris crepitans*).

This letter provides a brief introduction to important characteristics of the project as related to Northern cricket frog habitat and associated impacts at the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant (BBNPP) site. Additionally, this letter provides the Commission with two project topical reports on terrestrial fauna (including amphibians) and wetlands at the site, Enclosures 1 and 2 respectively.

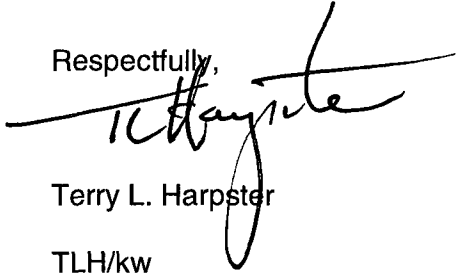
These reports describe the methods and findings of surveys completed between 2007 and 2010, and include faunal observations as well as the locations, types, and characteristics of wetlands and streams at the BBNPP site. As described in the Terrestrial Fauna report, biologists evaluating the BBNPP site reported hearing the call of a Northern cricket frog twice on a single day in November, 2007. The species has not been seen or observed otherwise at the BBNPP site or adjacent lands associated with the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station and Riverlands Nature Preserve. On-going field work by Dr. Brian Mangan of Kings College, and the staff of Ecology III have failed to find this species on-site. The locations of the observations were in the western part of the watershed of Walker Run, as shown in Enclosure 1.

As part of project siting and design, BBNPP has undergone an extensive wetland avoidance and minimization program, including substantial redesign of major project elements in response and coordination with state and federal regulatory agencies, including the Commission. The development of the project proposes less than 2 acres of direct wetland impact within the 1,991 acres of land supporting project development. In addition to the direct wetlands impacts, vegetation management, primarily associated with transmission line right-of-way maintenance, will permanently convert approximately 9 acres of wetlands from a mixed forested/emergent/scrub community to a low-growing emergent/scrub community. A mitigation

program for BBNPP, developed in coordination with state and federal agencies, including the Commission, provides for stream and wetland restoration and creation to offset unavoidable impacts of the project. The Commission contacts for the BBNPP project have been Tom Shervinskie and Mark Hartle.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please don't hesitate to Brad Wise of my staff at (610) 774-6508 or bawise@pplweb.com.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Harpster", written over the word "Respectfully,".

Terry L. Harpster

TLH/kw

- Enclosures: 1) A Field Survey of Terrestrial Fauna at the Proposed Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant Site Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, Rev. 4, December, 2010 (Provided on DVD)
- 2) Wetlands Delineation and Exceptional Value Wetlands Analysis Report for the Proposed Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant Site, Rev. 5, November, 2010. (Provided on DVD)

cc: (w/ Enclosure)

Dr. Donald Palmrose  
Senior Project Manager  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
11 545 Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852

Ms. Jamie Davis  
Office of Environmental Programs (3EA30)  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103-2029

Mr. Tom Shervinskie  
Pa Fish & Boat Commission  
450 Robinson Lane  
Bellefonte, PA 16823

Ms. Jennifer Kagel  
United States Fish & Wildlife Service  
Pennsylvania Field Office  
315 S. Allen St. #322  
State College, PA 16801

Mr. Eugene Trowbridge  
Pa Dept Environmental Resources  
Northeast Regional Office  
2 Public Square  
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

Ms. Amy Elliott  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Baltimore District  
State College Field Office  
1631 South Atherton Street, Suite 102  
State College, PA 16801

Ms. Paula B. Ballaron  
Susquehanna River Basin Commission  
1721 North Front Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102-0425

Mr. Thomas W. Beauduy  
Susquehanna River Basin Commission  
1721 North Front Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102-0425