

Appendix A - Item 26

PPL Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant
Salem Township, Luzerne County, PA

ACOE Information Requirement:

“Describe vessels utilizing the facility including type, length, width, and draft, the expected use of the proposed facility as it relates to navigation activity, the purpose of the proposed project and the historic use of the property and project area waterway.”

Applicant Response:

Description of vessels utilizing the facility and the expected use of the proposed facility as it relates to navigational activity

The proposed facility is not related to boating vessels, and no vessels will be accessing the facility. The Susquehanna River is not used for commercial navigation in the project vicinity. The normal flow of the Susquehanna River along the proposed section of river accommodates private recreational boats that are generally less than 24 feet (7.3 meters) in length, have shallow drafts, are both powered and non-powered, and launch from nearby ramps. Common recreational activities along the Susquehanna River include swimming, fishing, and boating. However, no navigation or swimming is permitted in the vicinity of the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant (BBNPP).

A number of public and private boat ramps exist within a 10 mile (mi) (16 kilometer [km]) radius from the BBNPP on the Susquehanna River. The public boat ramps include: the Berwick Test Track Park boat ramp approximately 8 mi (13 km) downstream of BBNPP operated by the Borough of Berwick, a Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission boat ramp about 5 mi (8 km) upstream of BBNPP, and the Hunlock Township boat ramp located approximately 10 mi (16 km) upstream of BBNPP. There are a number of private boat ramps that are restricted to individual property owners along this stretch of river including a private club that has a boat ramp at Wapwallopen approximately 1.5 mi (2.4 km) downstream of BBNPP. The PPL Susquehanna SES Environmental Laboratory has a boat ramp located approximately 2,100 feet north of the

proposed BBNPP cooling water intake. This ramp will be used to support BBNPP and SSES needs for river access. The proposed project will not affect river access from these facilities.

The purpose of the proposed project

The purpose of the proposed BBNPP is to generate approximately 1,600 MWe of baseload electrical power to meet regional energy demands.

Historic use of the property and project area waterway

Detailed archeological and historical surveys of the BBNPP site and associated onsite transmission corridors supporting BBNPP have been conducted, and are documented in the Phase I and II archeological investigations completed in consultation with Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission between 2008 and 2010. Detailed information on historic uses of the property is provided in these surveys.

BBNPP construction will require installation of a new intake structure, located east of the BBNPP power block on the west bank of the North Branch Susquehanna River near the terminus of the North Branch Pennsylvania Canal (North Canal). The new intake structure is necessary to support cooling water system makeup. The area likely to be affected by the new intake structure contains one previously-recorded architectural resource, the NRHP-eligible North Canal, which was constructed in the area of BBNPP around 1830 and was used to transport goods on barges along the Susquehanna River for approximately 60 years. In addition, the area near the intake structure contains two resources identified by the project's architectural and historical survey; i.e., the Delaware Lackawanna & Western Railway and the Susquehanna and Tioga Turnpike. Both resources are recommended as eligible for listing on the NRHP.

An additional activity known to have occurred in the Susquehanna River in the vicinity of BBNPP is the construction of eel walls (also called eel weirs) in the early part of the 20th century. Eel walls are V-shaped stone walls built in shallow parts of the river, with the open end of the "V" pointing upstream. Eels were trapped in these structures during their spawning migration. Some eel walls remain recognizable at low water levels in the vicinity of BBNPP, however, these structures will not be affected by construction of the Project. Eels, along with American shad, formed an important food source with peak harvests between 1850 and the early 20th century.

Coordination with the PHMC is ongoing to investigate the cultural, historic, and archeological resources at BBNPP, and to ensure their appropriate protection and stewardship. Upon completion of site investigations and an assessment of potential effects, consultation with the PHMC will be conducted to identify measures to avoid, minimize, and/or mitigate any adverse effects, per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.