



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
BALTIMORE DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1715
BALTIMORE, MD 21203-1715

January 7, 2013

Operations Division

Mr. Douglas McLearen
Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission
Bureau of Historic Preservation
Commonwealth Keystone Building, 2nd Floor
400 North Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120-0093

Dear Mr. McLearen:

This is in reference to the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant project application, a project located in Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. In conjunction with the applicant, the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission (PHMC) has been reviewing and commenting on this project since 2008 under ER # 81-0658-079. This office is currently reviewing an application for Department of the Army (DA) authorization for impacts to waters of the U.S. and has identified the project as CENAB-OP-RPA-2008-01401-P13 (Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant).

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the lead Federal agency, is also reviewing this application for a combined license (COL) for the construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant at the Bell Bend site. For purposes of consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), however, the Corps of Engineers has been identified as the lead Federal Agency. As a result, we are addressing the potential impacts to archaeological and architectural resources within our permit area associated with the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant site.

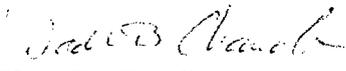
Please find enclosed copies of recent correspondence that the applicant has had with your office. All archaeological and architectural resources relating to Section 106 of the NHPA have been avoided, protected, or found to be not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Per recent correspondence, the only site identified by your office that requires protection is Site 36Lu288 (letter dated August 23, 2011). The applicant has therefore implemented an avoidance/mitigation measure on Site 36Lu288 and will place geotextile fabric and fill on the surface prior to use of the area as a staging area for construction (letter dated April 18, 2012). Any DA authorization issued for this project will require the applicant to implement this April 18, 2012 avoidance/mitigation measure.

Therefore, the Corps has determined that issuance of DA authorization for the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant project will have no adverse effect on historic properties, and no further cultural resource investigations are necessary. We request your concurrence with our determination within 30 days of the date of this letter. Should we become aware of any

previously unidentified historic properties being located in the permit area, either prior to or during construction, we will contact your office at once.

A copy of this letter will be furnished to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection - Northeast Regional Office for informational purposes. Thank you for your assistance with this project. If you have any questions concerning this matter, please call Mrs. Amy Elliott at (814) 235-0573.

Sincerely,


Wade B. Chandler
Chief, Pennsylvania Section

Enclosures