

April 17, 2015

The Honorable Leroy Howard, Chief
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
23701 S. 655 Road
Grove, OK 74344-6317

SUBJECT: NOTIFICATION OF ISSUANCE OF THE DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW OF THE BELL BEND
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Chief Howard:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by PPL Bell Bend, LLC (PPL) for a combined license (COL) for construction and operation of one new nuclear power plant at its Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant (BBNPP) site near Berwick, Pennsylvania. As part of its review of the proposed action, the NRC staff has prepared a draft environmental impact statement (EIS). The draft EIS, NUREG-2179, *Environmental Impact Statement for the Combined License for the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant*, includes analyses of relevant environmental issues, including potential impacts and effects on historic properties, and documents the NRC staff's determination regarding the suitability of the proposed site for the construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District (USACE), is a cooperating agency on the draft EIS.

A notice of availability of the draft EIS is anticipated to be published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in *the Federal Register* on April 24, 2015. The draft EIS is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room, located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, Rockville, Maryland 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access Management System (ADAMS), which is accessible from the NRC's website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> under the accession numbers ML15103A012 and ML15103A025. The draft EIS can also be accessed online at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/bell-bend.html>. For your convenience, the draft EIS on CD is attached to a reader's guide. The guide is a detailed brochure that summarizes the draft EIS.

In a letter dated January 9, 2009 (ADAMS Accession No. ML083520420), the NRC staff notified you that it will comply with its obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (NHPA) using the process set forth in Title 36 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) 800.8(c) in lieu of the procedures set forth in 36 CFR 800.3 through 36 CFR 800.6. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.8(c), the NRC staff is using the preparation of the draft EIS required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, (NEPA), to comply with its obligations under Section 106 of the NHPA. In the January 9, 2009, letter and in a supplemental letter dated June 12, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML12073A245), the NRC asked if you had any scoping comments for the NRC to consider in the DEIS. We are now requesting your comments on the draft EIS and on our conclusions regarding historic properties. We will address your comments in the final EIS.

The NRC and USACE review team conducted an environmental audit at the BBNPP site and reviewed information for cultural resources and historic properties within both the direct and indirect areas of potential effect (APE), as documented in reports prepared by PPL. The results of the NRC staff's review, including conclusions regarding the presence of cultural resources and historic properties within the APEs and the potential effects of the COL action on historic properties, are documented in this draft EIS. Chapter 2 describes historic properties and cultural resources located within the direct and indirect APEs for the BBNPP site. Chapter 4 discusses impacts to cultural resources during pre-construction and NRC-authorized construction, and Chapter 5 discusses impacts during operation of the proposed site. Chapter 7 addresses cumulative impacts to historic properties and cultural resources in the vicinity of the BBNPP site APEs.

On February 13, 2013, the USACE received the enclosed letter (ADAMS Accession No. ML13056A020) regarding consultation on the BBNPP site. The letter indicated that the SHPO concurred with the USACE's determination of no adverse effect on cultural resources provided that avoidance measures for USACE Permit 36LU288 are included as a special condition in the USACE permit. As stated on page 2-203 of the draft EIS, the USACE plans to include a special condition related to USACE Permit 36LU288.

The NRC and USACE plan to hold two public meetings to go over the analyses and results in the draft EIS on June 4, 2015, at the Bloomsburg University, Monty's Building Upper Campus, 400 East Second Street, Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania 17815. The first meeting will convene at 3:00 p.m. and will continue until 5:30 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 7:30 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. The meetings will be transcribed and will include: (1) a presentation of the contents of the draft EIS and (2) the opportunity for interested government agencies, organizations, and individuals to provide comments on the draft EIS. Additionally, the NRC and USACE staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each meeting during which members of the public may meet and talk with staff members on an informal basis. You and your staff are invited to attend.

Please provide any information or comments you feel are appropriate on the draft EIS during the comment period, which ends on July 7, 2015. Comments can be submitted: (1) by mail to the Chief, Rules, Announcements, and Directives Branch (RADB), Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mail stop: OWFN 12-H08, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001; (2) by e-mail to BBNP.COLEIS@nrc.gov; or (3) in person during the public meetings.

L. Howard

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If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this COL application, please contact environmental project managers Ms. Tomeka Terry at 301-415-1488 or via e-mail at Tomeka.Terry@nrc.gov, or Ms. Patricia Vokoun at 301-415-3470 or via email at Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jennifer L. Dixon-Herrity, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-039

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If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this COL application, please contact environmental project managers Ms. Tomeka Terry at 301-415-1488 or via e-mail at Tomeka.Terry@nrc.gov, or Ms. Patricia Vokoun at 301-415-3470 or via email at Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Jennifer L. Dixon-Herrity, Chief
Environmental Projects Branch
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-039

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AElliott, USACE (Amy.H.Elliott@usace.army.mil)

KLeigh, (Kimberly.leigh@pnnl.gov)

BMcDowell, PNNL(bruce.mcdowell@pnnl.gov)

TGrant, Numark, (tgrant@numarkassoc.com)

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Bell Bend Mailing List

cc:

Mr. David J. Allard
Director and State Liaison Officer
Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Radiation Protection
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Mr. Ted Baird
Society for Pennsylvania Archaeology
1123 Drinker Turnpike
Covington Township, PA 18444

Mr. George Blanchard, Governor
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801

The Berwick Historical Society
P.O. Box 301
Berwick, PA 18603-0301

Mr. Anthony T.P. Brooks
Director of Development
and Public Relations
Luzerne County Historical Society
49 South Franklin Street
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18701

Mr. Robert Cartica
State of New Jersey Department of
Environmental Protection
The New Jersey Natural Heritage Program
DEP- Office of Natural Lands Management
Mail Code 501-04
P.O. Box 420
501 E. State Street
Station Plaza #5, 4th Floor
Trenton, NJ 08625-0420

Ms. Carol R. Collier, Executive Director
Delaware River Basin Commission
25 State Police Drive
P.O. Box 7360
West Trenton, NJ 08628-0360

Mr. Eric Davis, Project Leader
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New Jersey Field Office
927 N. Main Street
Heritage Square, Building D
Pleasantville, NJ 08232

The Honorable Ed Delgado, Chairman
Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin
P.O. Box 365
Oneida, WI 54155-0365

Ms. Pamela Shellenberger
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
110 Radnor Road, Suite 101
State College, PA 16801-4850

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

Mr. Clifford Farides
Mill Memorial Public Library
495 E. Main Street
Nanticoke, PA 17101

Dr. Katherine Faull, Ph.D.
Humanities Department
Bucknell University
One Dent Drive
Lewisburg, PA 17837

The Honorable Leroy Howard, Chief
Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma
23701 S. 655 Road
Grove, OK 74344-6317

Mr. Max Furek
57 Jeanette Street
Mocanaqua, PA 18655

Mr. Ray Ganthner, Senior Vice President
AREVA, NP, Inc.
3315 Old Forest Road
P. O. Box 10935
Lynchburg, VA 24506

Bell Bend Mailing List
cc:

Mr. Andrew Gavin
Director, Technical Programs
Susquehanna River Basin Commission
4423 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17110-1788

Mr. Tony Gonyea, Faithkeeper
Onondaga Nation
Road 11 A, Box 245
Nedrow, NY 13120

The Honorable Raymond Halbritter
Nation Representative
Oneida Nation of New York
5218 Patrick Road
Verona, NY 13478

Mr. Clinton Halftown, Nation Representative
Cayuga Nation
P.O. Box 803
Seneca Falls, NY 13148

Mr. Herbert Harmon
320 Stone Church Road
Berwick, PA 18603

The Honorable Paul O. Thompson, Chief
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe
412 State Route 37
Hogansburg, NY 13655

Mr. Chuck Henry
1051 Scotch Valley Drive
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

The Honorable Leo R. Henry, Chief
Tuscarora Nation
2006 Mt. Hope Road
Lewistown, NY 14092

Mr. Leroy Hess
124 Hess Road
Wapwallopen, PA 18660

The Honorable Roger Hill, Chief
Tonawanda Seneca Nation
7027 Meadville Road
Basom, NY 14013

Mr. Rich Janati, M.S., Chief
Division of Nuclear Safety Administrator
Appalachian Compact Commission
Rachel Carson State Office Building
400 Market Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Ms. Karen J. Karchner
Building Code Official - No. 000624
Zoning/Planning Administrator
Floodplain Administrator
Salem Township
38 Bomboy Lane
Berwick, PA 18603

Ms. Patricia A. Kurkul
Northeast Regional Administrator
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office
55 Great Republic Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Mr. James R. Leigey
Pennsylvania Game Commission
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

Ms. Emily McBracken
494 Mingle Inn Road
Berwick, PA 18603

Mr. Douglas C. McLearn, Chief
Division of Archaeology and Protection
Bureau for Historic Preservation
Pennsylvania Historical
and Museum Commission
Commonwealth Keystone Building
400 North Street, 2nd Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17120-0093

Mr. Adrian Merolli, Director
Luzerne County Planning Commission
Penn Place
20 N. Pennsylvania Avenue
Wilkes-Barre, PA 18711

Bell Bend Mailing List

cc:

Mr. Wallace A. Miller, Acting Chief
Stockbridge-Munsee Community of
Wisconsin
N8476 Mo He Con Nuck Road
Bowler, WI 54416

Mr. Reid Nelson, Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
401 F Street NW, Suite 308
Washington, DC 20004

Mr. Justin Newell
Bureau of Forestry
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources
6th Floor Rachel Carson State Office Bldg
P.O. Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

Ms. Lisette Ormsbee
McBride Memorial Library
500 N. Market Street
Berwick, PA 18603

Mr. Malcom S. Plevyak
1446 Salem Boulevard
Berwick, PA 18603

The Honorable Ron Sparkman, Chief
Shawnee Tribe
29 South Highway 69A
Miami, OK 74355

Mr. Barry E. Snyder Sr., President
Seneca Nation of Indians
P.O. Box 231
Salamanca, NY 14779

Mr. Chris Urban
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823

The Honorable Glenna J. Wallace, Chief
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 350
Seneca, MO 64865

Ms. Karen Walsh
614 N. Front Street
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Mr. Clifford Peacock, President
Delaware Nation
P.O. Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005

Mr. Jack Wirbicki
212 Deer Run Drive
Mountaintop, PA 18707

Bell Bend Mailing List

cc:

Email:

djallard@pa.gov (Dave Allard)
pballaron@srbc.net (Paula Ballaron)
sbeeler@pa.gov (Shawn Beeler)
hbiggs@pa.gov (Heidi Biggs)
bob.brown@ge.com (Robert E. Brown)
bbusher@pa.gov (Brian Busher)
kcarey960@gmail.com (Kyle Carey)
mjcaverly@pplweb.com (Mike Caverly)
davis.jamie@epamail.epa.gov (Jamie Davis)
psychndesign@verison.net (Barbara DeRonde)
derddafdl@verizon.net (Robert DeRonde)
wilburdennisjr@hotmail.com (Wilbur Dennis, Jr.)
Amy.H.Elliott@usace.army.mil (Amy Elliott)
lechambon@comcast.net (Eric Epstein)
greshaja@westinghouse.com (James Gresham)
chebrink@localnet.com (Rev. Chad A. Hebrink)
wholtsmast@pa.gov (Walter Holtsmaster)
ecology3@gmail.com (Ted Jacobsen)
rjanati@pa.gov (Rich Janati)
vincekelly@gmail.com (Vince Kelly)
knutson.lingard@epa.gov (Lingard Knutson)
tolewis@pa.gov (Tonda Lewis)
clombard@pa.metrocast.net (Cynthia Lombard)
Magerr.Kevin@epamail.epa.gov (Kevin Magerr)
steve_mars@fws.gov (Steve Mars)
smcdougal@pa.gov (Steve McDougal)
kaysm@verizon.net (Catherin Stuccio Mentrinkoski)
smonatesti@verizonl.net (Sabatini Monatesti)
omowery@pa.gov (Olivia Mowery)
pnaugle@srbc.net (Pat Naugle)
rmpaley@pplweb.com (Robert M. Paley)
ajlaquin@verizon.net (Patricia Perluke)
kpetock@curtisswright.com (Kelly Petock)
TomPopko@hotmail.com (Tom Popko)
ruppert125@aol.com (Greg Ruppert)
eschloyer@yahoo.com (Erin Schloyer)
signs@bellessigns.com (Ryan Search)
rrsgarro@pplweb.com (Rocco R. Sgarro)
tshervinsk@pa.gov (Tom Shervinskie)
Jennifer_Siani@fws.gov (Jennifer Siani)
dsimpson@bloomu.edu (David Simpson)
nate@nathansnavely.com (Nate Snavelly)
dasuper@verizon.net (Dave Superdock)
RKTemple@cpsenergy.com (R.K. Temple)
Doug.Tiff@nrc.gov (Doug Tiff)
etrowbridg@pa.gov (Gene Trowbridge)
kevwhite@pa.gov (Kevin White)
lwinker@pa.gov (Larry Winker)
Lora_Zimmerman@fws.gov (Lora Zimmerman)