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November 6, 2015

ATTN: Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

**BELL BEND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
RESPONSE TO RAI ENV-30
BNP-2015-069 Docket No. 52-039**

Reference: 1) T. Terry (NRC) to R. R. Sgarro (Bell Bend, LLC), Final RAI ENV-30, email dated November 5, 2015

The Enclosure to this letter provides the Bell Bend, LLC response to Request for Additional Information (RAI) No. ENV-30 (Reference 1). The RAI addresses information contained in the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant (BBNPP) Combined License Application (COLA) Part 3, Environmental Report (ER).

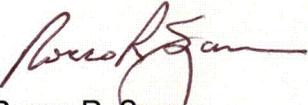
There are no new regulatory commitments in this correspondence.

Should you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at 610.774.7552.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on November 6, 2015.

Respectfully,


Rocco R. Sgarro

RRS/kw

Enclosure: Response to RAI ENV-30

D107
NRW

cc: w/ Enclosure

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Enclosure

Response to RAI ENV-30

RAI ENV-30:

ESRP Section 2.3.1 directs the staff's description in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Bell Bend COL of the hydrology of the proposed plant site and the surrounding area that could be affected by construction activities and plant operation. This description includes water bodies potentially affected by consumptive use mitigation required as part of the proposed Bell Bend Nuclear Power plant's permit for withdrawal and use of Susquehanna River water. In its October 21, 2013, response (BNP-2103-142) to RAI ENV-19, PPL (now Talen) described its consumptive water use mitigation plan. The mitigation plan (the primary plan) described in the response included the use of water stored at the Holtwood hydroelectric site to replace the Cowanesque storage that is needed for the proposed plant, which is currently allocated for consumptive use mitigation of a downstream generating station. PPL stated in the October 21, 2013 letter that, "23.8 mgd of water at Cowanesque is currently allocated to a generating station; ...PPL would plan to control all of this water. PPL controls sufficient compensatory water at PPL's Holtwood hydroelectric site that is sufficiently sized, ideally located and is currently available." With Talen's recent agreement to sell the Holtwood project [1], it is not clear to the staff that this statement is still valid.

Provide a revised consumptive use mitigation plan that is consistent with the sale of the Holtwood hydroelectric project. Describe all water sources that would be available to Talen to meet the Susquehanna River Basin Commission's requirements for consumptive water use mitigation and pass-by flow as described in their letter to PPL dated December 28, 2012 (ADAMS Accession No. ML13008A468).

[1] <http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/talen-energy-agrees-to-sell-three-pennsylvania-power-plants-300156524.html>

Response:

As stated in the press release referenced in RAI ENV-30 above, the agreement to sell Holtwood remains subject to necessary regulatory approvals and other customary closing conditions, with the transaction currently expected to close in the first quarter of 2016.

Given the assumption that the sale will be approved, Bell Bend, LLC (Bell Bend) would plan to continue to support the primary consumptive use mitigation plan (ref. BNP-2013-142, dated October 21, 2013) as written, through a contract to purchase the Holtwood water from the new owner. This would not occur until after a decision is made to proceed with the construction of BBNPP, and other options may be considered at that time.

Other available water sources to meet the SRBC requirements for consumptive water use mitigation and pass-by flow include:

- The development and use of water from the Rushton mine on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River to compensate Montour SES for the Cowanesque water reallocated to BBNPP, as described in the aforementioned primary plan.
- West Branch Susquehanna River abandoned mine water sources, as described in BNP-2014-065, dated April 17, 2014. These sources offer practical development potential and represent an alternative, if needed, to using Holtwood as a mitigation source to permit reallocation of Cowanesque water to BBNPP.

- The secondary mitigation plan option, also described in BNP-2013-142, which involves a reformulation study of the Tioga-Hammond project.