

April 21, 2016

Mr. Rocco R. Sgarro, Vice President
Talen Energy
Bell Bend, LLC
835 Hamilton Street
Suite 150
Allentown, PA 18101

SUBJECT: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT
STATEMENT FOR THE COMBINED LICENSE FOR BELL BEND NUCLEAR
POWER PLANT

Dear Mr. Sgarro:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has completed the final environmental impact statement (EIS) for a combined license (COL) at the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant site, located in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Enclosed is a copy of the *Federal Register* Notice of Availability for the final EIS. This notice advises the public that the final report, NUREG-2179, "Environmental Impact Statement for a Combined License (COL) for Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant, Final Report" is available for public inspection at the NRC Public Document Room or from the publicly available records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC website at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> (the Public Electronic Reading Room) and from the NRC website at www.nrc.gov. In addition, the McBride Memorial Library located at 500 North Market Street, Berwick, Pennsylvania, and Mill Memorial Public Library, 495 East Main Street, Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, have agreed to make the final EIS available for public inspection.

As discussed in the final EIS, the NRC staff's recommendation related to the environmental aspects of the proposed action is that the COL should be issued. This recommendation is based on: (1) the Environmental Report (ER) submitted by Talen Energy, as revised; (2) consultation with Federal, State, Tribal and local agencies; (3) the NRC staff's independent review; (4) the NRC staff's consideration of comments received during the environmental review; and (5) the assessments summarized in the final EIS, including the potential mitigation measures identified in the ER and in the final EIS. In addition, in making its preliminary recommendation, the NRC staff has concluded that there are no environmentally preferable or obviously superior sites in the region of interest.

R. Sgarro

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A separate notice of filing of the final EIS will be placed in the *Federal Register* through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the NRC Environmental Project Manager, Ms. Tomeka Terry at (301) 415-1488, or through e-mail at Tomeka.Terry@nrc.gov or Ms. Patricia Vokoun at 301-415-3470 or via e-mail at Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 52-039

Enclosures:
As stated

cc: w/enclosures
See next page

R. Sgarro

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Sincerely,

/RA/

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

Docket No. 52-039

Enclosures:

As stated

cc: w/enclosures

See next page

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