

1308/11/08

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REC: NRC  
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DOC DATE: 07/31/78  
DATE RCVD: 08/10/78

OBJECT TYPE: LETTER NOTARIZED: NO  
SUBJECT: FURNISHING COMMENTS RE ARTICLE APPEARING IN LOCAL NEWSPAPER, "THE BERWICK ENTERPRISE" ON 07/25/78 CONCERNING AN ENVIRON REPT SUBMITTED BY APPLICANT TO NRC.  
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DISTRIBUTION: LTR 34 ENCL 0  
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\*\*\*\*\* THE END \*\*\*\*\*

Mrs. Stanley Shortz  
RFD #1 Box 246  
Berwick, Penna 18603

July 31, 1978

Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555

Gentlemen:

This letter is in response to an article which appeared in our local newspaper, THE BERWICK ENTERPRISE, Tuesday, July 25, 1978 and concerns an environmental report submitted by PP&L to your commission. This article is enclosed for your observation.

The item states that of the things "considered" in the report, "even the reaction of our neighbors to the sound of construction" was included. We, local residents, who unfortunately live within close proximity to the plant site, have never been "considered" in any phase of the construction of the local nuclear plant, we have not been treated as "neighbors" in any sense of the word. Our land borders the switching station area of the plant site to the south and west and our home in which we reside is within 425' of the SW corner of this area. A part of this switching station is located on a 13.48 acre parcel of land that was acquired from us by PP&L's use of eminent domaine. This acquisition was only resolved after we were forced through the entire process of eminent domaine and the end court trial.

We have never been consulted personally at any time. PP&L's energies on our behalf have all been expended in the areas of "experts" to refute any of our complaints. During this time of construction, our many complaints have fallen on deaf ears.

We have not been privileged to read the report submitted by PP&L to your commission, but we do think our opinion of the noise during the period of construction should be considered. First and foremost, was the noise which accompanied the blasting which began in January of 1974 and was the heaviest during that year. At that time the site for the buildings was being prepared for construction. The hill that had been there was bulldozed and blasted level. Holes to house the reactors were then blasted to a depth of 70' into the solid rock formation which underlies this entire area. Many of the local homes sit on this formation. This was a period of extreme anxiety, frustration and helplessness as we saw our homes being systematically destroyed. This situation has led to a class action suit by the people in this area against PP&L, who denies any liability in the case. This will also be resolved by a court trial. Let me quote from my daily log my personal reaction to one of

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the particularly hard and loud blasts that occurred on June 7, 1974 at approximately 4:45 PM. The family was sitting at the dinner table eating the evening meal when the loud blast occurred. For some unexplained reason we had not heard the warning whistles, so the noise took us by complete surprise. "We all ran out of the house to see what had happened. It looked like a bomb had dropped. The dirt and dust had gone up in a large area and hung there for some time before settling down again". These blasts occurred up to six times a day from January of 1974 into November of that year. Occasional blasting is still being carried on. The effect of that blasting on the lives of the people living in this area can never be resolved. Besides the damages to our homes there has also been damage to the water supply. The water has been contaminated and several families have had to resort to carrying drinking water. Three of these residents had been in our class action suit, but they are now deceased. These people were not in good health and the local situation was extremely aggravating to them and could have been a contributing factor to their demise.

The noise of the blasts had a definite effect on the animal life around here. Our dog, in particular, came to associate the warning whistles with the blasts that he was extremely afraid of. Our cattle as a body would jump when they heard the noise of the blasts and the birds would scatter in all directions.

I am wondering if the siren that was used on the plant site to signal the start and ends of the shifts and was cycled around the clock and on weekends even when there was no one working was mentioned in the report? This siren sounded similar to our local fire siren, so you can imagine the confusion this caused for the volunteer firemen who lived within close proximity to the plant site. If the siren woke them from a sound sleep it was difficult to immediately ascertain if the sound was the siren at the plant site or a call for help from the local fire company. The siren had a definite effect on our ability to sleep and was annoying to say the least.

During the summer of 1974 the initial stages of preparing the switching station were begun. Large pans, double bulldozers and graders were used and the noise from this activity was louder than could be imagined. We could sit on our front porch and if the telephone rang in the next room, it was impossible to hear its ring. Any conversation outside had to be yelled in order to hear what was being said. Some of this area was filled to an approximate depth of 20', so it did take a considerable length of time to complete.

The sounds of the loud speakers, trucks and other equipment have all become a part of our life, but there were several 24 hour concrete pours that were very annoying. One in particular used a horn similar to a car horn to signal the pouring process and this continued throughout the night.

This area that PP&L has chosen for their nuclear power plant site had been a very beautiful, peaceful and tranquil area for the many people who resided here. It is no longer that wonderful place to live. It has been replaced by the sights of construction over a wide area in and around the plant site and the hills and mountains are scarred by the paths that are being cut for the many power lines that will be a part of the plant. Many of the local residents have had to move to make way for the construction.

The over all effect of the plant on the local area has been great. The heavy traffic from the plant site makes it almost impossible to gain access to the highway during the changing of the shifts there. Very few local people are employed at the plant site, so the big wages being paid there is going to people who have moved into this area. This has caused an increase in the price we local citizens have to pay for housing, food, etc., while the local wages have not increased to compensate for this price increase. The influx of workers has put a burden on our local facilities and I am wondering what the over all effect will be on the local community when the work is completed on the plant site and the workers exit the community.

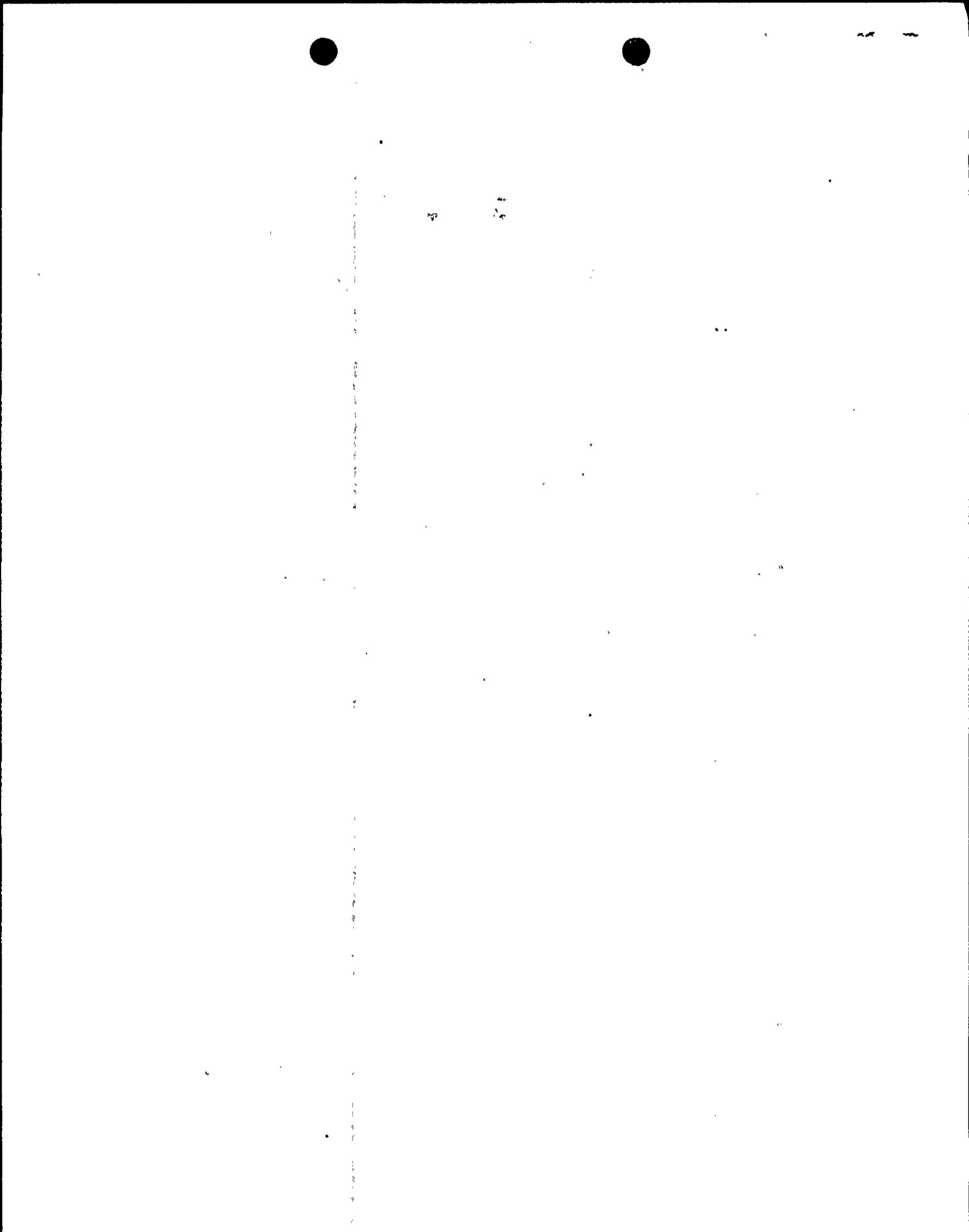
According to a prospectus put out by PP&L and dated March 1977, in 1975 31% of PP&L's total electric energy available was sold to other utilities. In 1976 29% was sold. With more power being generated by PP&L's plant expansion I am wondering where the power is going that will be generated at this nuclear power plant. It is sad to think this area has been ruined for the sake of selling power to someone else. However, as long as power companies are allowed to record power sales as Operating Expenses instead of Revenue this sort of thing will continue.

Last but not least, I am concerned about an article that appeared in the local paper concerning security at the plant site when the plant goes into operation. After reading the report I am wondering who is going to protect us from this security. According to the article, the fence encircling the plant site will be electrified, guard dogs will roam inside the fence and the guards will be equipped with machine guns. The guards will ask questions only once before action is taken. Our land borders this hazard area for 1122'. Need I say more?

A concerned citizen,

*Mrs. Stanley Shortz*

Mrs. Stanley Shortz



## **PP&L submits environment report**

The environmental report on the Pennsylvania Power and Light Co.'s nuclear power plant at Bell Bend was submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) last week, and the final safety analysis report for the plant will be submitted around the end of July, according to Tom Kiniry, PP&L's general manager for this region.

PP&L has submitted drafts of each report to the NRC; the 12-volume safety analysis in April, and the three-volume environmental report in May. After a preliminary review, the NRC accepted the safety analysis report with few changes. The draft environmental report was also accepted with no major modifications.

The NRC will now spend several months studying the final documents prior to issuance of the plant's operating permit, said Kiniry.

Norman W. Curtis, PP&L vice president - engineering and construction, notes that the voluminous reports, which together make up the company's operating license application, were begun in 1976. "This paperwork represents more than 90,000 person-hours with about 35,000 hours of that spent by PP&L people," explained Curtis.

A number of independent consultants were enlisted to aid PP&L in preparing the application, Curtis says. He said Dames and Moore provided studies in the geological sciences and demography, or population changes and altitude attitudes.

Bechtel Power Corp., the plant contractor, provided plant design descriptions and an evaluation of the impact of the operating plant. Radiation Monitoring Corp. is engaged in a long-term measurement of background radiation, against which radiation from the plant can be measured, said Curtis.

PP&L had the job of coordinating the various consultants' work and supplied information on operation of the plant, the need for future electrical power, and other aspects of the plant's operation.

"Hundreds of items are considered in these reports," said Curtis. "They include the plant's impact on employment, housing, taxes, zoning, agriculture, recreation, transportation, water, air, plants, animals, soil, and even the reaction of our neighbors to the sound of construction."

The NRC will furnish a copy of the reports to the Osterhout Library in Wilkes-Barre for public convenience in reading the documents.

