

# Susquehanna River Basin Commission

*a water management agency serving the Susquehanna River Watershed*



January 6, 2012

Mr. Michael J. Caverly  
VP-Financial Nuclear Development  
PPL Bell Bend, LLC  
Two North Ninth Street  
Allentown, PA 18101

Re: Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant; BNP-2010-165;  
Seasonal Availability and Water Use;  
Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania

Dear Mr. Caverly:

Susquehanna River Basin Commission (Commission) staff has reviewed the "Seasonal Availability and Water Use" for the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant (BBNPP) submitted in the referenced correspondence and provides the following comments.

Our comments are as follows:

1. In the last bullet on page 2, titled "ESWS Cooling Tower Evaporation," the evaporation from simultaneous operation of two Essential Service Water System (ESWS) towers is indicated as 324 gallons per minute (gpm) average evaporation and 512 gpm peak evaporation. In BNP-2011-005, page 4 of 8, the peak evaporation is indicated as slightly less at 480 gpm. Additionally, in BNP-2011-025 sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on January 28, 2011, the average evaporation rate for two ESWS towers is indicated as 1,142 gpm, and the peak evaporation is related to four-tower operation and is not relevant. These evaporation rates should be consistently defined and quantified for each operating mode.
2. The Commission does not agree with the conclusion in the second paragraph on page 7 that "The monthly comparisons in Table 3 clearly demonstrate the adequacy of supply at BBNPP." The adequacy of water supply will be determined by careful review of aquatic studies, plans for consumptive water use mitigation, and compliance to Commission policies and regulations.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please feel free to contact Paula Ballaron at (717) 238-0423, extension 222.

Sincerely yours,



Andrew D. Dehoff, P.E.  
Manager, Project Review

cc: Gary Petrewski; PPL  
Michael Canova; USNRC  
Patricia Vokoun; USNRC  
Amy Elliott; USACE, Baltimore District  
Susan Weaver; PADEP  
Eugene Trowbridge; PADEP  
Mark Hartle; PFBC  
Tom Shervinskie; PFBC  
Jennifer Kagel; USFWS  
Larry Miller; USFWS  
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