

Appendix A - Item 2

PPL Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant
Salem Township, Luzerne County, PA

ACOE Information Requirement:

"Show the relationship of proposed work location to submerged and terrestrial historic sites, parks, named swamps and wetlands, streams, and any other resource of concern."

Applicant Response:

Submerged and Terrestrial Historic Sites

Detailed archaeological and historical surveys of land in the vicinity of the BBNPP site in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania were conducted to support Bell Bend development. The initial cultural resource investigations consisted of Phase Ia reconnaissance, three separate Phase Ib surveys, and Phase II National Register Site Evaluations of the site, conducted between June 2007 and May 2010. As a result of the power block relocation, an additional Phase 1 cultural resource investigation and Phase II National Register Site Evaluation along with a supplemental Phase 1b cultural resources investigation were conducted in 2010.

Several named historic resources on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or eligible for the NRHP exist on or near the BBNPP site, including the North Branch Pennsylvania Canal and the Canadian Pacific/ Bloomsburg Division of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railway. Architectural and historic resources within the project's viewshed were also evaluated, as were historic and prehistoric archeological sites and artifacts within the site.

Coordination with the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) is ongoing, and is expected to continue into 2012. Upon completion of Phase II investigations (in response to findings of the Supplemental Phase 1b evaluation of 2010) and an assessment of effects, consultation with the PMHC will be conducted to identify measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects, per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to protect historic resources. Copies of all reports with the PHMC are provided in Appendix B of this JPA. Correspondence and current activities are described in the Cultural Resource Notice Form submitted to the Pa. Historical and Museum Commission on October 12, 2010.

An additional historical item in the region but not in the part of the Susquehanna River immediately adjacent to BBNPP are eel walls, also called eel weirs. These V-shaped stone structures were used in the 19th and early 20th century to assist in annual eel harvests from the River, and remains of these structures remain observable during low water in the vicinity of BBNPP.

Parks

PPL Susquehanna, LLC owns the Riverlands Recreation Area (401 acres), a strip of land between the power generating facilities and the Susquehanna River. The Riverlands Recreation Area includes natural and recreational areas:

- Riverlands Nature Center - The Nature Center is located in the Susquehanna Energy Information Center at the entrance to the Recreation Area.
- Riverlands Recreation Area - This recreation area on the west side of the river is a popular spot for picnicking, group outings, hiking, sports, and playing.
- Lake Took-A-While - A 30 acres fishing lake and a restored section of the North Branch Canal provide fishing opportunities and are open to the public. Boating is allowed, but no gasoline engines are permitted.
- Wetlands Nature Area - This 94 acres tract of riverine forest, marsh, swamp, and vernal pools has been set aside as an area for nature study and education. A portion of the long-abandoned North Branch Canal runs north-south across the property.

In addition, the 1,100 acres "Important Bird Area #50" as designated by the Pennsylvania Audubon Society exists within the PPL and Allegheny Electric Cooperative owned properties encompassing the Susquehanna Riverlands and other SSES properties, including Council Cup bluff and forest on the east side of the river. The Important Bird Area supports substantial education, recreation, and ecotourism activities.

State lands in the vicinity of the BBNPP site are limited to the Lackawanna State Forest, several state game lands and the Nescopeck State Park. The two nearest State Game Lands are No. 55 and No 260. State Game Land No. 55 covers 2,470 acres in Columbia County just west of the BBNPP site. State Game Land No. 260, located east of the BBNPP site, covers 3,087 acres in Luzerne County (PGC, 2006). The Pennsylvania Game Commission maintains/manages both the wildlife and its habitats within the State Game Land boundaries and provides recreation and education for the general public. The Pennsylvania Department of

Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) manages the State Forests and the State Parks. The Lackawanna State Forest covers over 27,345 acres in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties. These lands provide recreational opportunities and clean water to the people of this region (DCNR, 2008).

There are no National Parks, National Forests, or National Monuments within the BBNPP site vicinity.

Named Aquatic Features

Named aquatic features on the BBNPP site include Walker Run and an unnamed tributary (Walker Run Unnamed Tributary No. 1). Walker Run is a second order tributary to the Susquehanna River. The main stem of Walker Run flows south through the western portion of the site and Unnamed Tributary No. 1 flows west through the center of the site until its confluence with the main stem of Walker Run.

In addition, the North Branch of the Susquehanna River and the North Branch Division of the Pennsylvania Canal System are situated at the eastern extent of the BBNPP site. No other named aquatic features are within or adjacent to the BBNPP Project Boundary.

The attached figure "BBNPP Site Hydrography" presents named streams and rivers in the vicinity of BBNPP.

Other Resources of Concern

There are no utility lines (gas, water, sewer, or electric) other than those associated with SSES known to exist in the immediate vicinity of the cooling water intake structure. There is an active natural gas pipeline owned by the Transcontinental Gas Pipeline Company crossing the river approximately 1 mile upstream (to the north of BBNPP).

References:

DCNR, 2008. PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of State Parks, Boundaries of State Parks in Pennsylvania, Website:
http://www.pasda.psu.edu/uci/MetadataDisplay.aspx?entry=PASDA&file=dcnr_statepark_bound_2008.xml&dataset=114, Date accessed: March 15, 2008.

PGC, 2006. Pennsylvania Game Commission, State Game Lands, Website:
http://www.pasda.psu.edu/uci/MetadataDisplay.aspx?entry=PASDA&file=PGC_StateGameLands2007.xml&dataset=86, Date accessed, March 15, 2008.

