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NRC and Army Corps of Engineers Issue Final Environmental Impact Statement for Bell Bend New Reactor

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Army Corps of Engineers have concluded that environmental impacts would not prevent issuing a Combined License (COL) for a new reactor at the Bell Bend site in Pennsylvania. The site is adjacent to the existing Susquehanna nuclear power plant, about 70 miles northeast of Harrisburg, Pa.

The NRC staff conducted an independent assessment of the Bell Bend COL application. The environmental review will be published soon in the Federal Register. The review took into account consultations with other federal agencies, state, tribal and local governments, and considered comments received during the public scoping process in 2009 and 2012. The staff also considered comments received on the draft environmental impact statement issued in April 2015.

The NRC staff conclusions are documented in NUREG-2179, “Environmental Impact Statement for the Combined License for the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant: Final Report,” parts [one](#) and [two](#). The final environmental impact statement is available for public inspection at the McBride Memorial Library, 500 N. Market St., Berwick, Pa., and the Mill Memorial Public Library, 495 E. Main St., Nanticoke, Pa. The Bell Bend [application](#) and general information about new reactor licensing are available on the NRC [website](#).

Talen Energy submitted the COL application on Oct. 10, 2008, seeking permission to construct and operate a [U.S. EPR](#) reactor at the site. AREVA Inc., the designer of the U.S. EPR, requested that the NRC staff suspend its safety review of the U.S. EPR design certification application in February 2015. As a result, the U.S. EPR design certification review and Bell Bend safety review are on hold until further notice.

The final environmental impact statement supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers review of the Bell Bend COL application for the activities under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbor Act of 1899. The Corps will issue a separate record of decision on the work proposed for Corps’ review and authorization.