

October 15, 2014

Mr. Rocco R. Sgarro, Vice President
Nuclear Project Development
PPL Bell Bend, LLC
Two North Ninth Street (GENPL4)
Allentown, PA 18101-1179

SUBJECT: BELL BEND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE REVISION

Dear Mr. Sgarro:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the status of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) staff's review of the consumptive water use plan provided by PPL Bell Bend, LLC (PPL) and a revised environmental review schedule for the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant (BBNPP) combined license (COL) application. The NRC and USACE are cooperating Federal agencies in the development of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the BBNPP.

On September 17, 2012, the NRC staff informed PPL that they did not have sufficient information for the draft EIS sections regarding consumptive water use. On November 28, 2012, and February 19, 2014, the NRC staff issued requests for additional information (RAI) to PPL regarding consumptive water use and held an audit the week of March 17, 2014. After thorough review of PPL's response to the RAIs and supplemental information provided during and following the audit, the NRC and USACE now agree that PPL has provided sufficient information to allow both agencies to proceed with the draft EIS.

The environmental review schedule has been principally impacted by technical challenges associated with resolution of the consumptive water use issue, as well as NRC resource constraints. The revised schedule for the environmental portion of the BBNPP COL application review is enclosed. Please note that the environmental review schedule could be extended as a result of stakeholder input and engagement that may occur between the draft and final versions of the EIS. As always, the NRC will consider any opportunity that may allow us to complete the review ahead of the enclosed schedule.

R. Sgarro

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If you have any questions concerning the environmental review, please contact Ms. Tomeka Terry, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-1488 or Tomeka.Terry@nrc.gov, or Ms. Patricia Vokoun, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-3470 or Patricia.Vokoun@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA Mark Delligatti for/

Frank M. Akstulewicz, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-039

Enclosure:
Revised Schedule

cc: See next page

R. Sgarro

-2-

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Frank M. Akstulewicz, Director
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No. 52-039

Enclosure:
Revised Schedule

cc: See next page

ADAMS Accession Number: ML14239A290

NRO-002

***concurring via email**

****see previous concurrence**

OFFICE	DNRL/EPB:PMEP	DNRL/EPB:LA	DNRL/EPB:PM	OGC
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DATE	9/05/14	8/28/14	9/03/14	9/25/14
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NAME	JDixion-Herrity	RWhited**	SFlanders	FAkstulewicz <i>/MDelligatti for/</i>
DATE	9/29/14	9/30/14	10/10/14	10/15/14

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

Letter to R. R. Sgarro dated October 15, 2014

SUBJECT: BELL BEND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW SCHEDULE REVISION

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Enclosure

**U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant Combined License Application
Revised Environmental Review Schedule**

Phase 1: Environmental Impact Statement Scoping Summary Report Issued	April 2014 (A)*
Phase 2: Draft Environmental Impact Statement Issued to Environmental Protection Agency ¹	April 2015 (T)
Phase 3: Final Environmental Impact Statement Issued to Environmental Protection Agency	April 2016 (T)

*A-Actual, T-Target

¹ The Environmental Protection Agency will publish a Notice of Availability of the draft EIS in the *Federal Register* approximately one week after the document is issued. This notice begins the 75-day public comment period on the draft EIS.

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