

## **Bell Bend submits key environmental permit application**

On Nov. 11, members of PPL's Bell Bend Project Team and employees from Pennoni Associates met to perform the final review before submitting the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit application for the Bell Bend Project to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The NPDES permit program controls water pollution by regulating sources such as pipes or man-made ditches that could discharge pollutants into local waters during construction and operation.

"Submitting the NPDES permit is a key milestone in the licensing process for the proposed Bell Bend unit," said Terry Harpster, vice president-Bell Bend Project Development. "It's one of more than 75 major permits necessary to complete the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Combined License application process, which is still a few years from completion."

"The development of the NPDES permit application was a great team effort by the project team members and contractors supporting the project including Pennoni Associates, Bechtel Corporation and Land Studies," Harpster said.

PPL submitted more than 2,000 pages of supporting documents and about 120 design drawings in its application to the Pennsylvania DEP.

The NRC is reviewing the Bell Bend COL application, which PPL submitted in October 2008. However, PPL has not made a final decision whether to build Bell Bend.

"That decision still remains several years away and depends on a number of factors," Harpster said. "Those factors include approval of the license, NRC certification of the AREVA Evolutionary Power Reactor design, the economics of the project, success in attracting investment partners in the project, and the availability of a federal loan guarantee or other acceptable financing structures."