

Susquehanna River Basin Commission,
February 2, 2023
North Front Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Grandfather Notice, #6: Penn State University.

The Penn State Breazeale Reactor went critical in 1955. The BSBR is the nation's longest continuously operating university research reactor. Breazeale is a 1 MW TRIGA reactor with a moveable core in a large pool. The core is located in a 24 foot deep pool with ~71,000 gallons of demineralized water.

The Breazeale reactor reminds us how much reactor safety has changed. Its 1955 license was just two pages of conditions. When Penn State renewed it in 2009, the license had grown to 60 pages.

There are currently 35 operating university research reactors on 33 sites in 24 states. I am requesting the water use at the PSBR be captured, and identified in this Grandfathered Application.

I am renewing an earlier request that I made on December 15, 2022 that the SRBC pursue a Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. (Please refer to the enclosed letter to Governor Shapiro.) There are currently three nuclear power plants, and seven reactors on the Susquehanna River. Three of the stations - Peach Bottom 1, Three Mile Island Unit 1 and Three Mile Island Unit 2 - are in various stages of nuclear decontamination and decommissioning. At some point, Breazeale will also have to be decommissioned.

Public Hearing, #17: Wise Foods., Inc.

This request is from a private company located in Columbia County. Weis is proximate to the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station located on the Susquehanna River in Luzerne County. The plant draws 40.86 million gallons per day from the Susquehanna River. For each unit, 14.93 million gallons per day are lost as vapor out of the cooling tower stack, while 11 million gallons per day are returned to the River as cooling tower basin blow down. On average, 29.86 million gallons per day are taken from the Susquehanna River and not returned.

I am requesting the water use applications be reviewed in the context of the “aggregate impact” on regional communities to determine when - and if - a tipping point has been reached. In this case, Weis Foods is on the record of supporting an “aggregate impact statement.”

The Company opposed the tolling of Route 80 based on the “aggregate impact.” Norman S. Rich, president and CEO of Weis Markets, noted that all of their 126 stores in Pennsylvania are supplied from a distribution center in Milton just 10 miles from route 80. And 57 Weis stores are supplied via I-80, six days a week or the equivalent of 20,000 trips a year on the road. “If the I-80 toll proposal matches the Pennsylvania Turnpike rates, a round-trip truck run from Milton to Stroudsburg would cost \$62.” (63) Who do you think is going to pay for the increased cost of groceries? “TOLL ROADS news 2007- 07-1.

I am requesting that for this application, and future applications, water use be examined in terms of an “aggregate impact statement.” If Weis can oppose tolling based on “aggregate impacts”, then they can support an “aggregate impact statement” for water withdrawal.