

Initiative joins Susquehanna, Eastern Fossil and Hyrdo in support of Outage

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A joint initiative between Susquehanna and Eastern Fossil and Hydro improved welder training and testing and successfully completed all welder training at the Harwood Learning Center complex on Friday, March 30, 2012, one day prior to the start of Susquehanna's Spring 2012 outage. This effort not only streamlined welder teaching and testing certification, it reduced the costs associated with the original process.

"Contractor welder testing to support both Nuclear and Fossil outages has always been a challenge," said **Nuclear Field Services Manager Joe Ladick**.

"There have always been significant costs associated with the overall processing and testing of Contractor Welders in a tight time



frame to support outage needs."

Susquehanna Station and Eastern Fossil and Hydro funded the development of the Welder Training/Testing Facility at Harwood by taking advantage of the recently acquired Fire School Garage. As a result, PPL's organizations were able to minimize their investment without sacrificing the quality needed to develop a first-class facility incorporating the latest welding technologies.

In the past, contractor welders required site access – or escorts – to gain access to the welding test facility at Susquehanna. Along with space limitations requiring either second shift or overtime coverage, additional costs were incurred for escorts, test administrators, craft time and overall coordination / oversight of the effort.

"The new off-site facility at Harwood is a state-of-the-art testing facility, able to accommodate 16 welders at a time, eliminating the need for second shift and overtime coverage," said Joe. "Welders are scheduled for testing at Harwood even before they access Susquehanna, eliminating the need for additional costs for processing, escorts and other inefficiencies related to coordinating testing on site."

Contract Welders were extremely complimentary about the new facility, indicating that it was one of the best facilities they'd seen in the industry. The shop has been outfitted with the latest welding machine technologies and, most noteworthy, a ventilation system designed to remove hazards associated with hexavalent chromium and significant reduction in welding fumes overall.

