

Exelon Generation  
4300 Winfield Road  
Warrenville, IL 60555

www.exeloncorp.com

50-237/249

RS-01-235

January 11, 2002

Ms. Jody Millar  
Assistant Field Supervisor  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
4469 48<sup>th</sup> Ave. Ct.  
Rock Island Field Office  
Rock Island, IL 61201

Subject: Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3, License Renewal:  
Request for Information on Threatened or Endangered Species

Exelon Generation Company (EGC), LLC, (formerly Commonwealth Edison Company) is currently preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to renew the operating licenses for Dresden Nuclear Power Station (DNPS), Units 2 and 3. The current operating licenses for Unit 2 and 3 expire in 2009 and 2011, respectively. The renewal term would be for an additional 20 years beyond the original license expiration date. As part of the license renewal process, the NRC requires license renewal applicants to "assess the impact of the proposed action on threatened or endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act." The NRC will consult with your office under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. By contacting your office early in the application process, we hope to identify any potential issues that we may need to address or any information we should provide to your office to expedite the NRC's consultation.

Exelon has operated DNPS and its associated transmission lines since 1970. As shown in Attachments A and B, DNPS is located in Goose Lake Township, Grundy County, Illinois, on the south shoreline of the Illinois River, at the confluence of the Des Plaines and Kankakee Rivers at river mile 272.4. The DNPS site is owned by EGC and consists of approximately 2,500 acres. The area within six miles of the site includes both Grundy and Will Counties in Illinois. The local terrain is level to gently rolling, except for the Kankakee Bluffs just northeast of DNPS on the north bank of the Illinois River. The area around DNPS is largely rural, characterized by farmland, woodlands, and small residential communities. The Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area is located approximately one mile southwest of DNPS and the Des Plaines Conservation Area is approximately two miles east of DNPS. As shown on Attachment C the 1,275-acre cooling pond is divided almost equally between Grundy and Will Counties.

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As shown in Attachments D and E, the current DNPS transmission line configuration is connected to the power grid through seven 345-kilovolt lines. The Electric Junction corridor contains two lines, running east from DNPS, and then turning north, crossing the Illinois River. The lines run for 31.1 miles and have a right-of-way ranging from 130 to 380 feet wide. Two Goodings Grove lines cross the Kankakee River south of DNPS and then run northeast and terminate at the Elwood Substation. The Goodings Grove corridor is 12.4 miles long, with a 250 feet wide right-of-way. Pontiac Mid-Point is a 43.3-mile line that runs in a southwesterly direction and terminates south of Pontiac, Illinois with a right-of-way width of 145 feet. Powerton is a 104.5-mile line that crosses the Kankakee River twice before heading southwest and terminating near the Illinois River. This corridor has a right-of-way width of 250 feet in most areas. The Collins Station line extends 11.8 miles from DNPS to the nearby Collins Station with a right-of-way width of 150 feet.

EGC is committed to the conservation of significant natural habitats and protected species, and expects that the operation of DNPS including maintenance of the transmission lines, through the DNPS renewed license period would not adversely affect any threatened or endangered species. EGC has no plans to alter current operations over the license renewal period. Any maintenance activities necessary to support license renewal would be limited to previously disturbed areas.

After your review, we request receiving your input by March 29, 2002. In your response, please detail any concerns you may have about any listed species or critical habitat in the area or confirming our conclusion that operation of DNPS over the license renewal term would have no effect on any threatened or endangered species. This will enable us to meet our NRC application submittal schedule. EGC will include a copy of this letter and your response in the Environmental Report that will be submitted to the NRC as part of the DNPS license renewal application.

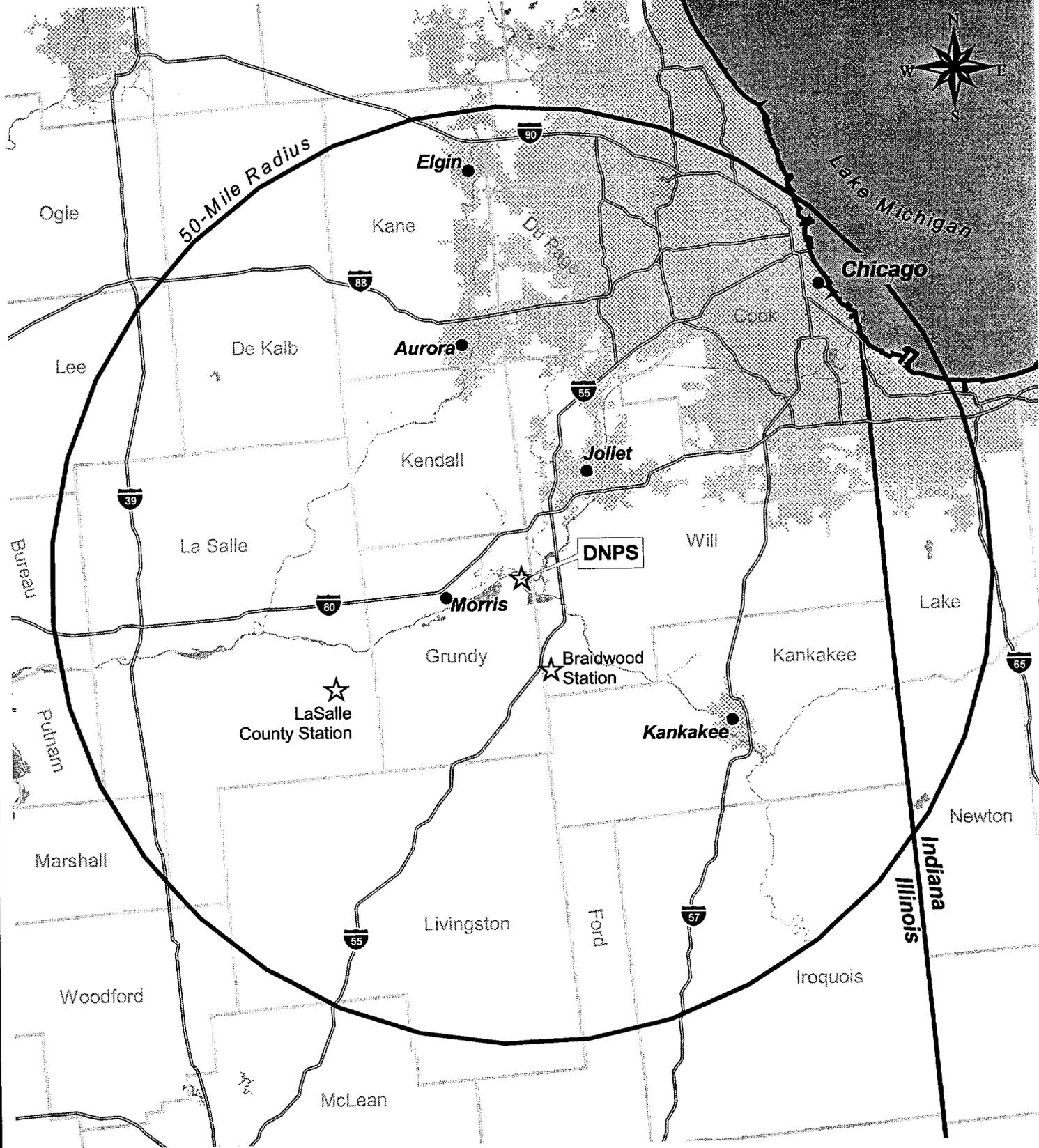
Should you have any questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Terry Steinert at (630) 657-3213.

Respectfully,



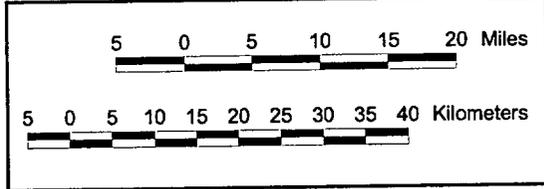
K. R. Jury  
Director – Licensing  
Mid-West Regional Operating Group

Attachments Attachment A: Figure 2-1, 50-Mile Vicinity Map  
Attachment B: Figure 2-2, 6-Mile Vicinity Map  
Attachment C: Figure 2-3, Site Boundary  
Attachment D: Figure 3-3, Transmission Line Map  
Attachment E: Figure 3-4, Detailed Transmission Line Map

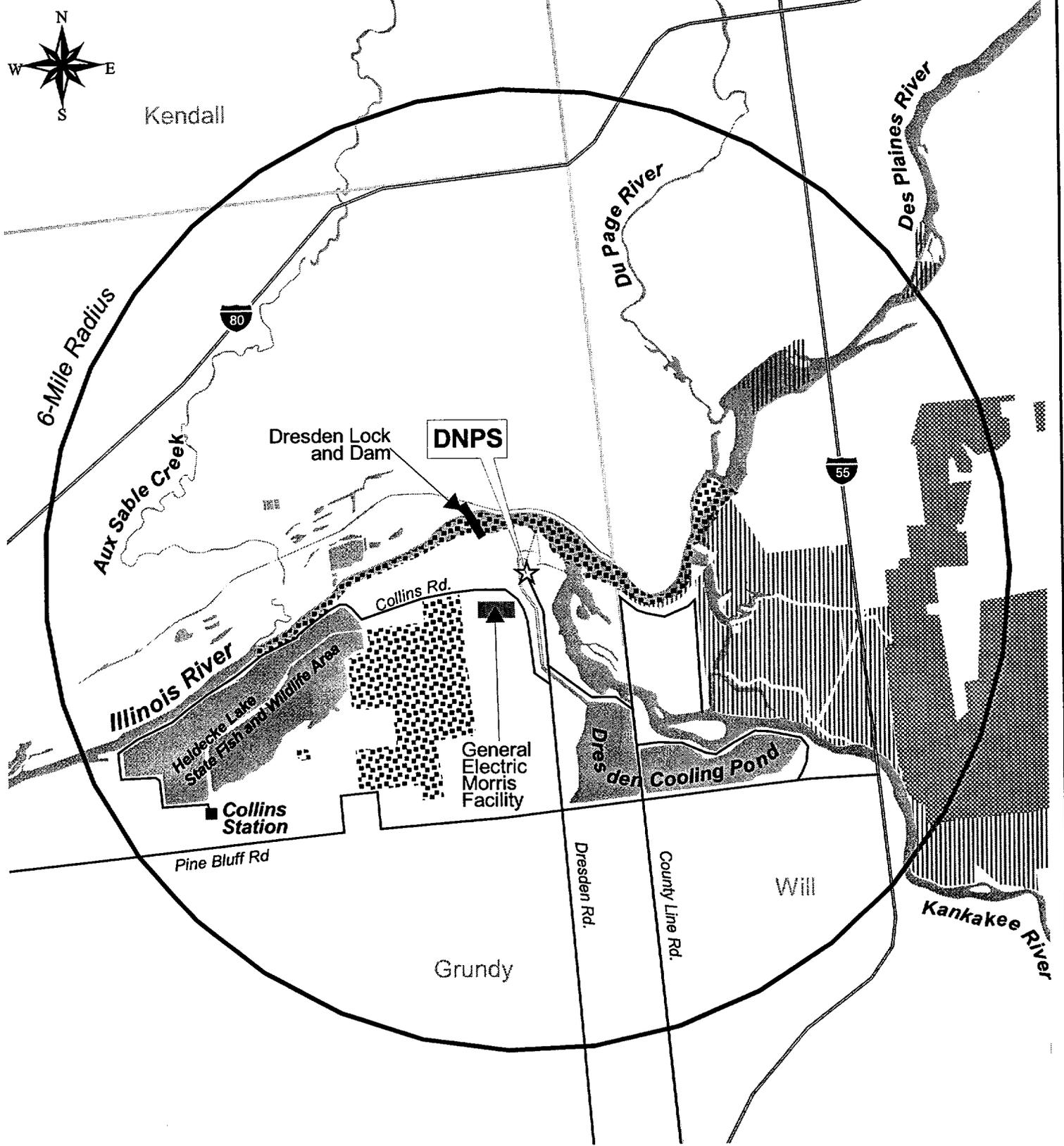


**LEGEND**

- ★ Nuclear Power Plants
- ▬ Interstates
- ▭ State Boundary
- ▭ County Boundary
- ▨ Lakes and Rivers
- ▧ Urban Areas

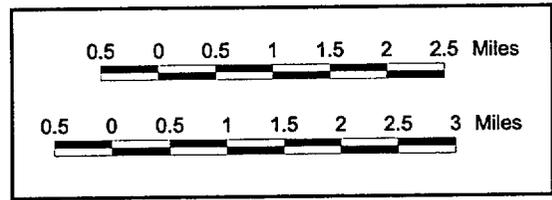


**FIGURE 2-1**  
**50-Mile Vicinity Map**

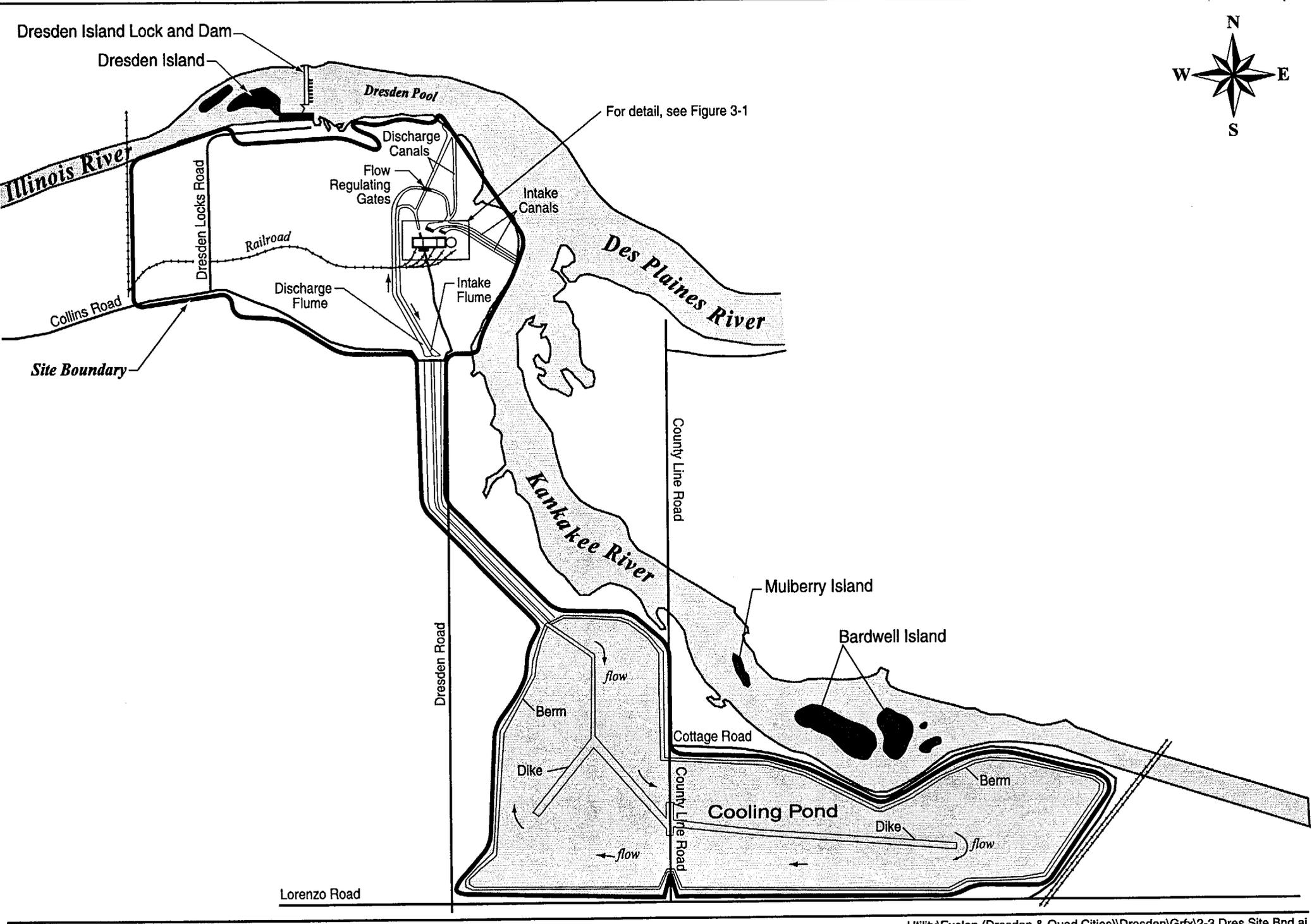


**LEGEND**

- ★ Nuclear Power Plants
- ▨ Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie
- ▤ Goose Lake Prairie Natural Area
- ▧ Des Plaines Conservation Area
- Power Station
- Interstate
- ▭ County Boundary
- ▬ Lakes and Rivers



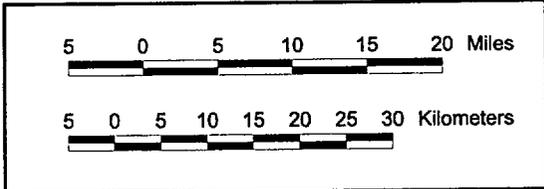
**FIGURE 2-2**  
**6-Mile Vicinity Map**



**FIGURE 2-3. Site Boundary.**



- LEGEND**
- ▲ Substations
  - ▬ Transmission Lines
  - ▭ State Boundary
  - ▭ County Boundary
  - ▨ Lakes and Rivers



**FIGURE 3-3**  
**Transmission Line Map**



Kendall

To Electric  
Junction  
Substation

Des Plaines River

Du Page River

6-Mile Radius

Aux Sable Creek

Dresden Lock  
and Dam

DNPS

To Elwood  
Substation

Illinois River

Holdrege Lake  
State Fish and Wildlife Area

Collins  
Substation

Pine Bluff Rd

Collins Rd

Dresden Rd.

County Line Rd.

Will

Kankakee River

Grundy

To Powertown  
Substation

To Pontiac  
Substation

**LEGEND**

- ▲ Substations
- Transmission Lines
- ★ Nuclear Power Plants
- ▨ Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie
- ▩ Goose Lake Prairie Natural Area
- ▧ Des Plaines Conservation Area
- Power Station
- ▭ County Boundary
- ▬ Lakes and Rivers

Dresden Nuclear  
Power Station



0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 Miles

0.5 0 0.5 1 1.5 2 2.5 3 3.5 Kilometers

**FIGURE 3-4**  
**Detailed Transmission**  
**Line Map**