

June 5, 2002

Mr. Steve Anschutz  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ecological Services Office  
203 W. Second Street  
Federal Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Grand Island, Nebraska 68801

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER  
EVALUATION FOR THE FORT CALHOUN NUCLEAR STATION LICENSE  
RENEWAL

Dear Mr. Anschutz:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is evaluating an application submitted by Omaha Public Power District for the renewal of the operating license for its Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station Unit 1. The NRC is preparing a supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (NUREG-1437) for this proposed license renewal, for which we are required to evaluate potential impacts to threatened and endangered species.

Fort Calhoun Station Unit 1 is located in Washington County, Nebraska on the southwestern bank of the Missouri River at river mile 646 (Figures 1 and 2). The Fort Calhoun site consists of approximately 660 acres most of which is cropland or developed facility areas. Areas of natural vegetation on the site consist mostly of highly disturbed woodlands and shrub land on the steep slopes in the southern portion of the site and riparian woodlands along onsite sloughs bordering the Missouri River.

The proposed action would include use and continued maintenance of existing plant facilities and transmission line and would not result in new construction or disturbance. The 7-mile-long transmission-line corridor passes through mostly cropland and connects to a substation west of Blair, Nebraska. Cooling water for the Fort Calhoun Station is withdrawn from the Missouri River to supply once-through cooling water to remove heat from the main condensers. Maximum water withdrawal for the plant during normal operation is approximately 371,000 gallons per minute.

To support the environmental impact statement preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests a list of species and information on protected, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Station and its associated transmission line.

S. Anschutz

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If you have any comments or questions, please contact Mr. Thomas Kenyon, Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-1120.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By: PTKuo**

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director

License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program

Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure: As stated

Docket No. 50-285

If you have any comments or questions, please contact Mr. Thomas Kenyon, Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-1120.

Sincerely,  
**Original Signed By: PTKuo**  
Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director  
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts Program  
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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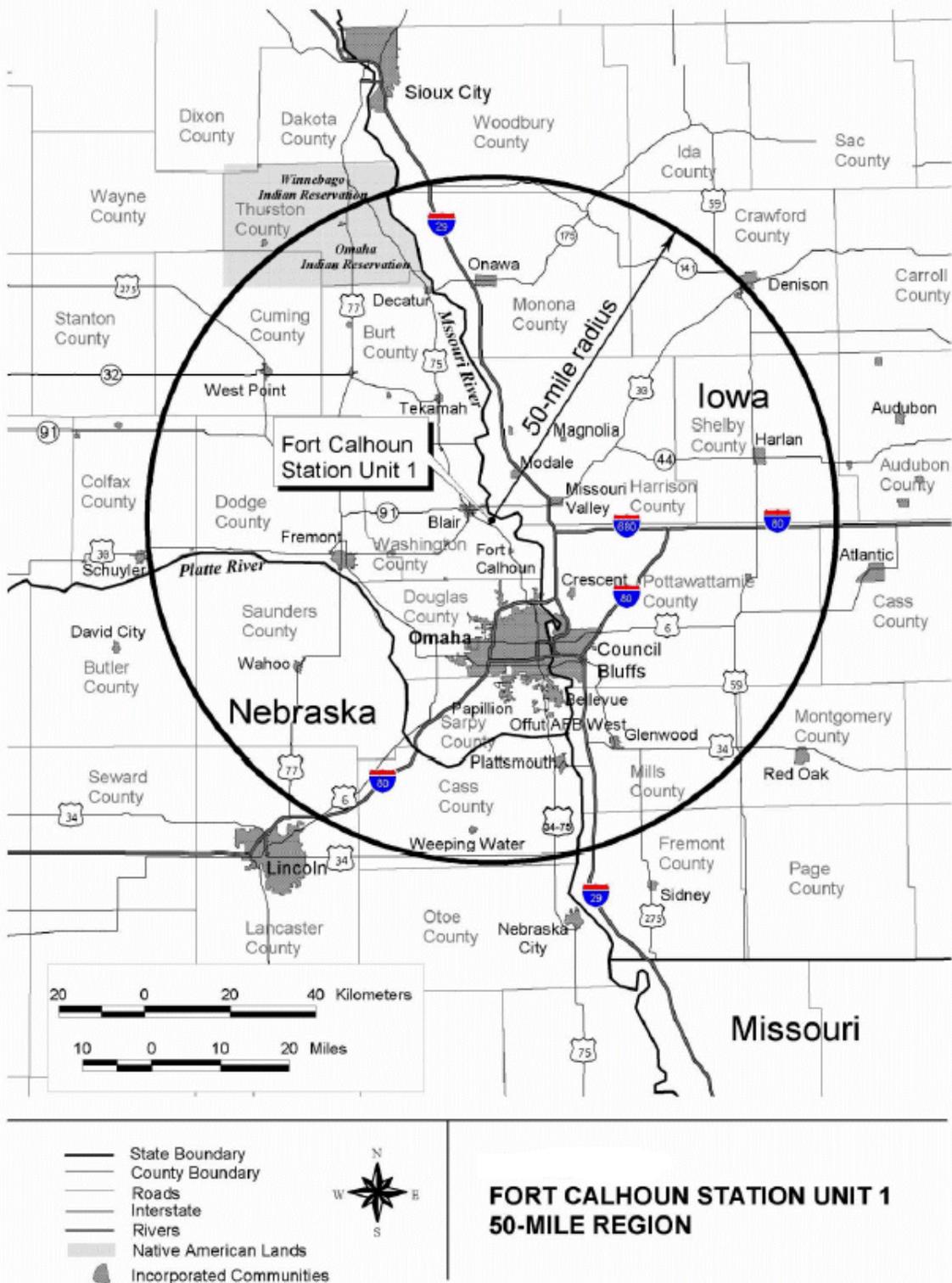


Figure 1. Location of Fort Calhoun Station Unit 1, Nebraska.

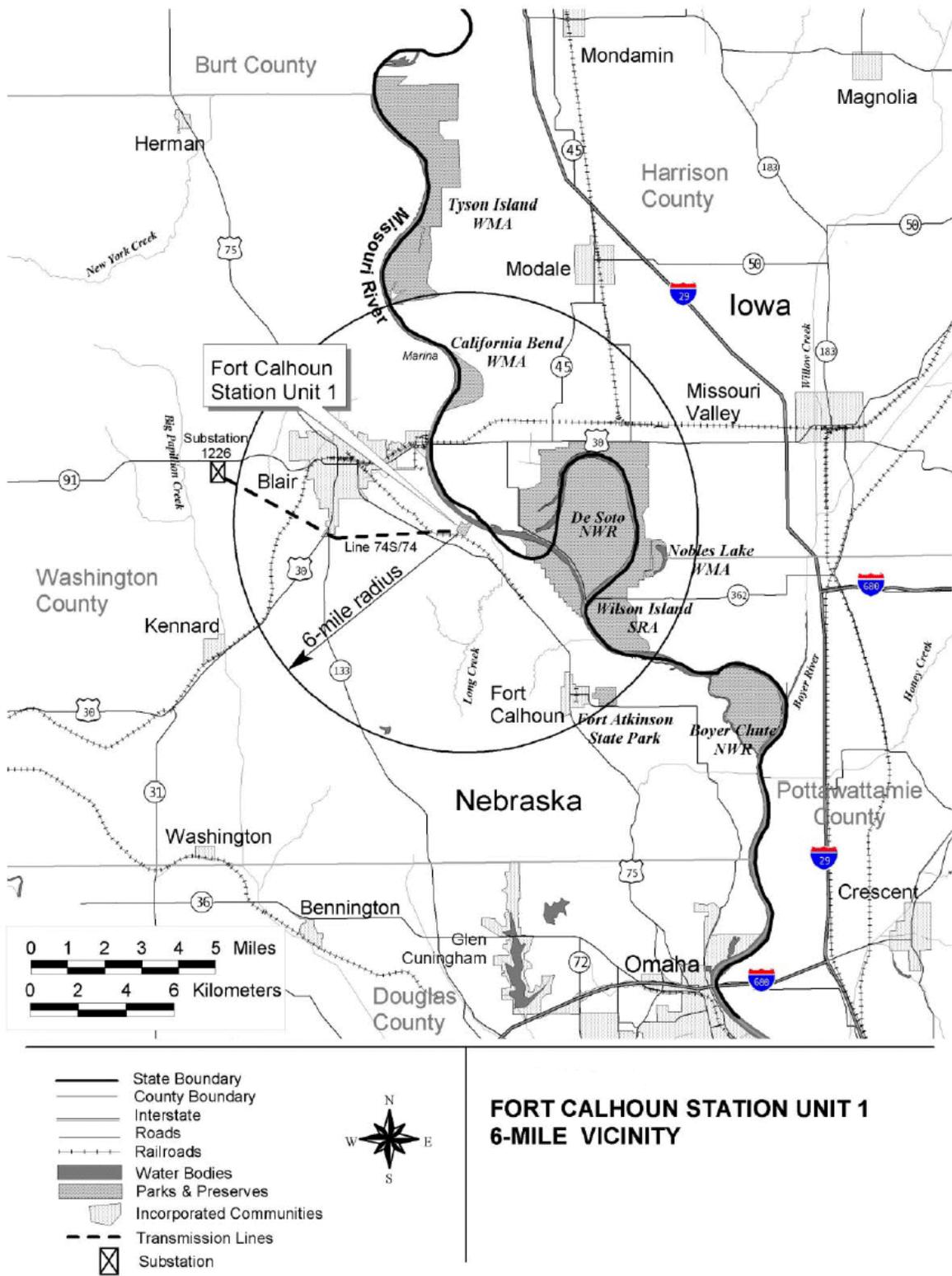


Figure 2. Vicinity of Fort Calhoun Station Unit 1 and transmission line.