Appendix C

Special-Status Species Correspondence

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American Electric Power
Cook Nuclear Plant
One Cook Place
Bridgman, MI 49106
www.aep.com

AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

Mr. Craig Czarnecki
Field Supervisor
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
East Lansing Field Office
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, MI 48823

August 27, 2002

Dear Mr. Czarnecki:

Subject: D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant License Renewal, Request for Information on Listed Species and Important Habitats

American Electric Power (AEP) is preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to review the operating licenses for D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2. The Unit 1 license expires October 25, 2014, and the Unit 2 license expires December 23, 2017. AEP intends to submit this application for license renewal in November 2003. As part of the license renewal process, the NRC requires license applicants to "assess the impact of the proposed action on threatened or endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act" (10 CFR 51.53). The NRC will consult with your office under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act to determine if any listed species or critical habitat occurs in the project area. By contacting you in advance, we hope to identify any issues that need to be addressed or information required to expedite the NRC's consultation.

AEP has operated D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant (CNP) and associated transmission lines since 1974. CNP is in Lake Charter Township, Berrien County, Michigan, on the eastern shoreline of Lake Michigan. This location is approximately 55 miles east of downtown Chicago, 55 miles southwest of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and 11 miles south-southwest of the twin cities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, Michigan (Figure 2-1). The nearest town is Bridgman, which is approximately two miles south of CNP (Figure 2-2). The CNP properly consists of approximately 650 acres owned by AEP and includes 4,350 feet of lake frontage. The site extends approximately one and one quarter miles eastward from Lake Michigan.

AEP has approximately 230 miles of transmission line corridors that occupy approximately 4,600 acres for the specific purpose of connecting CNP to the transmission system. Figure 3-2 is a map of the transmission systems of interest, which consists of six 345-kilovolt lines and one 765-kilovolt line. All seven lines begin at CNP. The Palisades No. 1 and No. 2 are 345-kilovolt lines that run north to the Palisades Nuclear Plant. The Olive 345 kilovolt line runs eastward for approximately 5 miles and then south to the Olive Substation west of South Bend, Indiana. The Twin Branch No. 1 and No. 2 345-kilovolt lines connect to the Twin Branch Substation near South Bend. The Collingwood 345-kilovolt line terminates at the Collingwood Substation near Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Dumont 765-kilovolt line runs south from the plant to the Dumont Substation southwest of South Bend.

AEP is committed to the conservation of significant natural habitats and protected species, and believes that operation of the station and its transmission lines since 1974 has had no adverse impact on any threatened or endangered species. AEP has no plans to alter current operations over

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August 27, 2002
Mr. Craig Czarnecki
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the license renewal period. Any maintenance activities necessary to support license renewal would be limited to previously disturbed areas. No major expansion of existing facilities is planned, and no additional land disturbance is anticipated in support of license renewal. As a consequence, we believe that operation of CNP, including maintenance of the transmission lines, over the license renewal period (an additional 20 years) would not adversely affect any threatened or endangered species.

We would appreciate if you would provide us with any information you may have about any threatened or endangered species or ecologically significant habitats that may occur on the 650 acre CNP site or along associated transmission corridors in Michigan. This will enable us to meet our application preparation schedule. We will include a copy of this letter and your response in the license renewal application that we submit to the NRC. Please call me at (616) 697-5095 if you have any questions or require additional information to review the proposed action.

Sincerely,

J. P. Carlson
Environmental Manager

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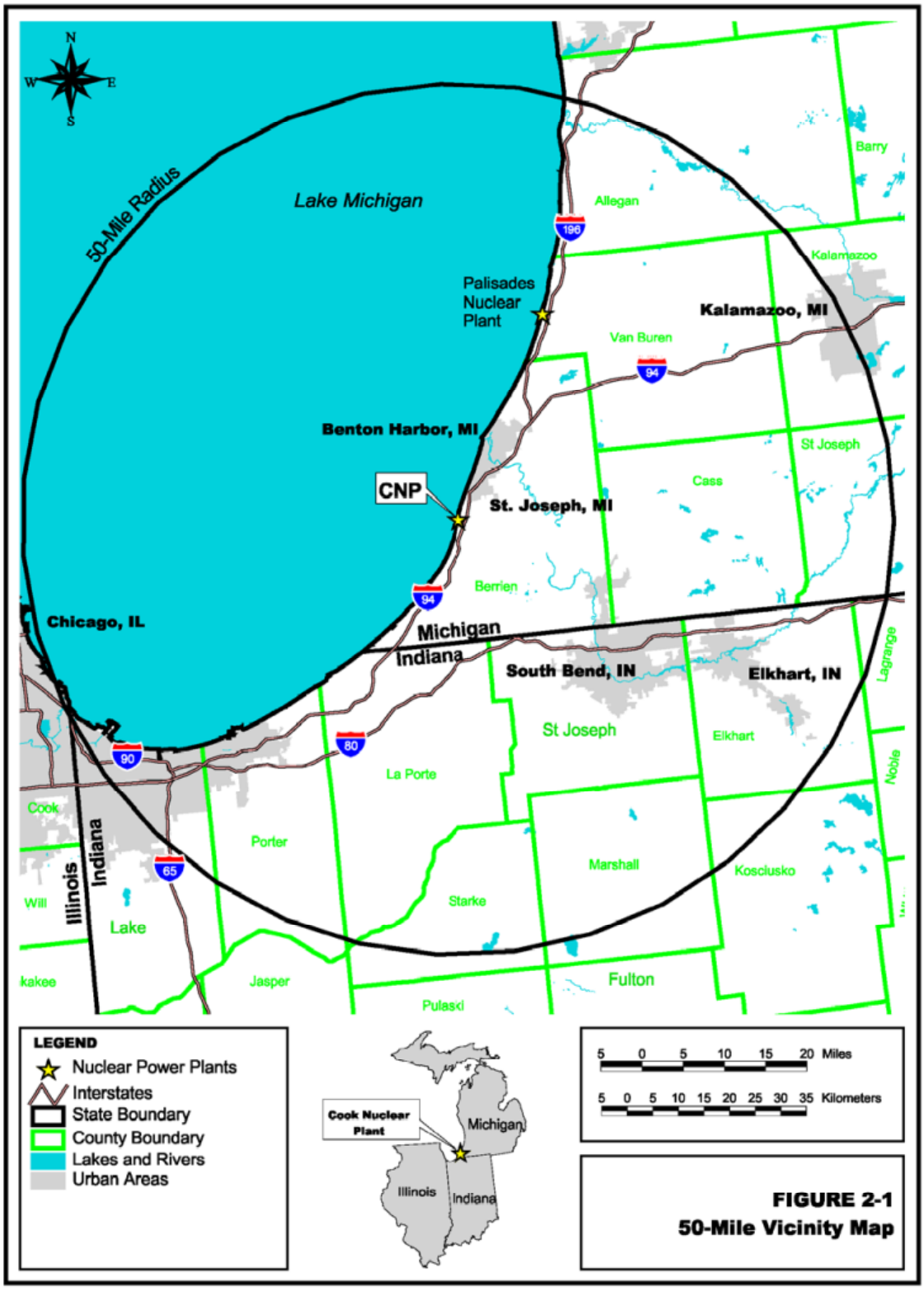
Attachments: Figure 2-1
Figure 2-2
Figure 3-2

2002-1598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50-Mile Radius
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Palisades Nuclear Plant
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Kalamazoo, MI
South Bend, IN
Elkhart, IN
Barry
Allegan
Kalamazoo
Van Buren
St Joseph
Cass
Berrien
Lagrange
St Joseph
Elkhart
Noble
La Porte
Cook
Porter
Marshall
Kosciusko
Will
Illinois
Indiana
Lake
Starke
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Jasper
Pulaski
Fulton
196
94
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80
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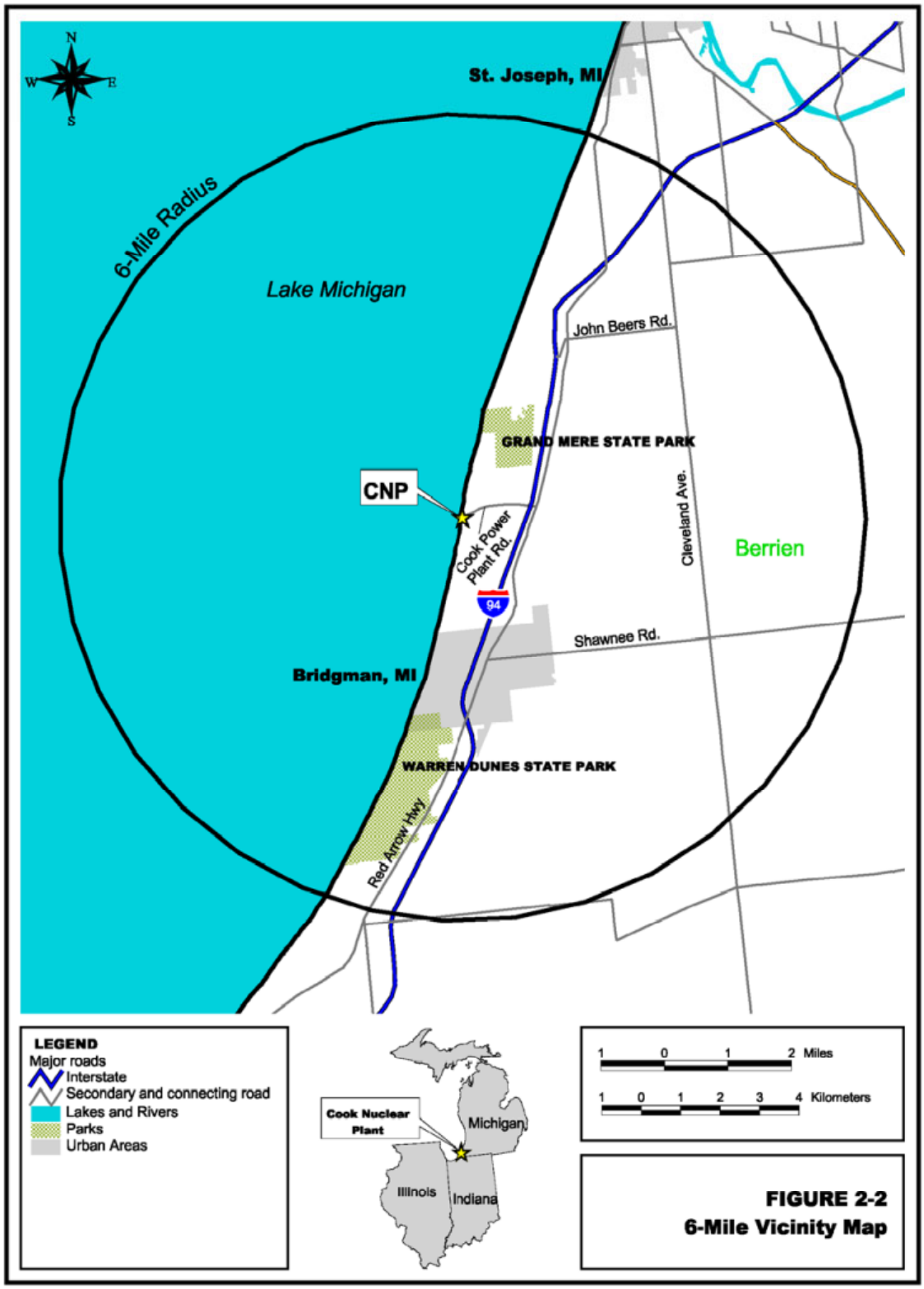
LEGEND
Nuclear Power Plants
Interstates
State Boundary
County Boundary
Lakes and Rivers
Urban Areas
Cook Nuclear Plant
Michigan
Illinois
Indiana
5 0 5 10 15 20 Miles
5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 Kilometers
FIGURE 2-1
50-Mile Vicinity Map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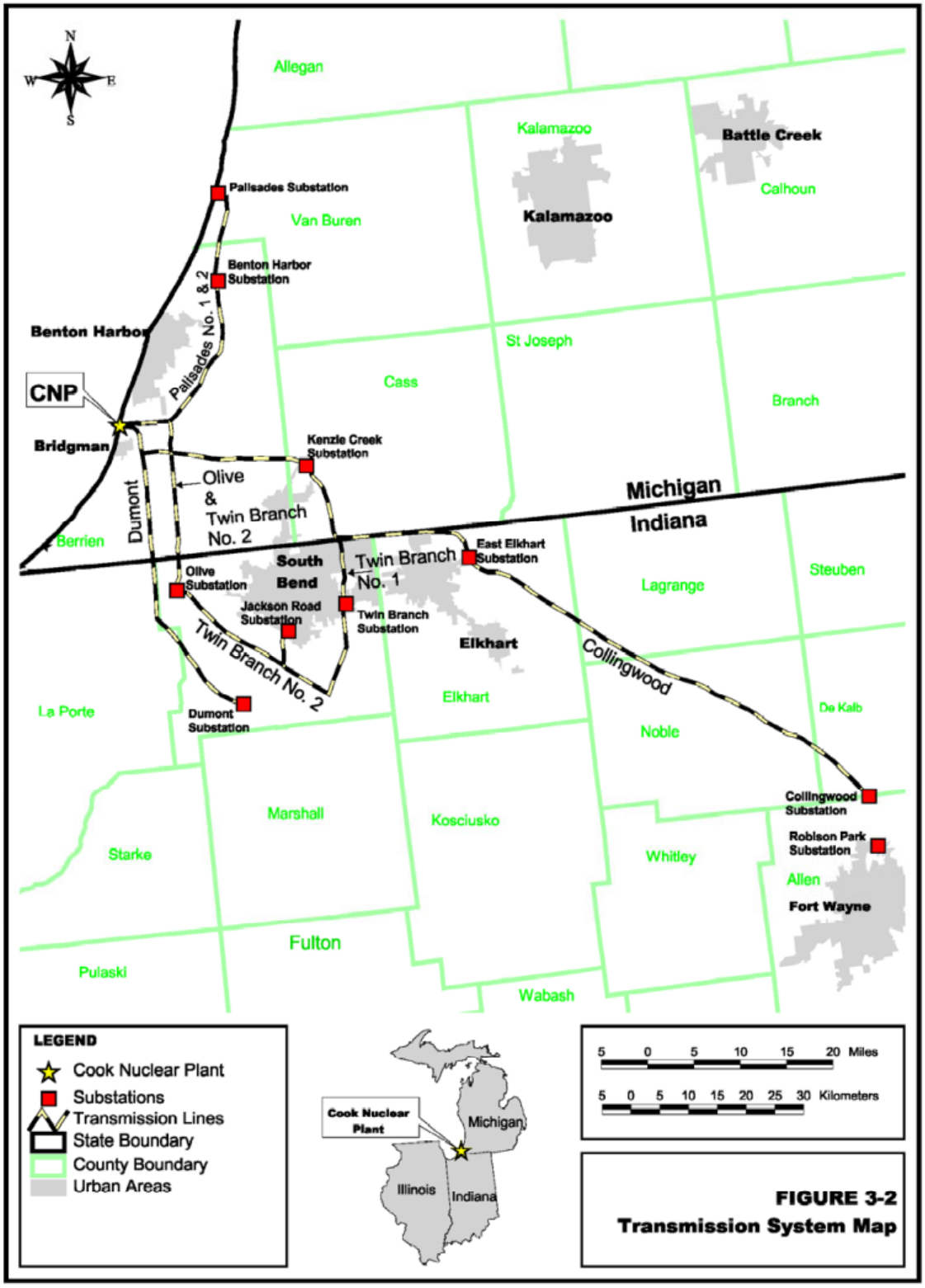
St. Joseph, MI
6-Mile Radius
Lake Michigan
John Beers Rd.
GRAND MERE STATE PARK
CNP
Cook Power Plant Rd.
Cleveland Ave.
Berrien
94
Shawnee Rd.
Bridgman, MI
WARREN DUNES STATE PARK
Red Arrow Hwy
LEGEND
Major roads
Interstate
Secondary and connecting road
Lakes and Rivers
Parks
Urban Areas
Cook Nuclear Plant
Michigan
Illinois
Indiana
1 0 1 2 Miles
1 0 1 2 3 4 Kilometers
FIGURE 2-2
6-Mile Vicinity Map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Allegan
Kalamazoo
Battle Creek
Calhoun
Palisades Substation
Van Buren
Kalamazoo
Benton Harbor Substation
Palisades No. 1 & 2
Benton Harbor
St Joseph
CNP
Cass
Branch
Bridgman
Kenzie Creek Substation
Olive & Twin Branch No. 2
Michigan
Indiana
Dumont
Berrien
East Elkhart Substation
Olive Substation
South Bend
Twin Branch No. 1
Steuben
Lagrange
Jackson Road Substation
Twin Branch Substation
Elkhart
Collingwood
Twin Branch No. 2
La Porte
Dumont Substation
Elkhart
De Kalb
Noble
Collingwood Substation
Marshall
Kosciusko
Robison Park Substation
Starke
Whitley
Allen
Fort Wayne
Fulton
Pulaski
Wabash
LEGEND
Cook Nuclear Plant
Substations
Transmission Lines
State Boundary
County Boundary
Urban Areas
Cook Nuclear Plant
Michigan
Illinois
Indiana
5 0 5 10 15 20 Miles
5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 Kilometers
FIGURE 3-2
Transmission System Map

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United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
East Lansing Field Office (ES)
2651 Coolidge Road, Suite 101
East Lansing, Michigan 48823-6316

IN REPLY REFER TO:

October 2, 2002

J. P. Carlson
American Electric Power
Cook Nuclear Plant
One Cook Place
Bridgman, MI 49106

Re: Endangered Species List Request, Proposed D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant License Renewal Application, Van Buren, Berrien, and Cass County, Michigan

Dear Mr. Carlson:

Thank you for your August 27, 2002 request for information on endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species and critical habitat which may be present within the area of the proposed project sites. Your request and this response are made pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (the Act), as amended, (87 Stat. 884, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

We understand that American Electric Power (AEP) is preparing an application to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to review the operating licenses for D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant. This application will be submitted for license renewal in November 2003. It is also understood that AEP performs various projects within its transmission line corridors and that you have an Indiana bat mitigation plan in practice for those projects that involve tree removal. According to your mitigation plan, in order to prevent projects from negatively impacting Indiana bats no trees will be removed until the month of October, which is when the bats have returned to their hibernacula.

Endangered Species Act Comments

We have determined that the threatened Pitcher's thistle, *Cirsium pitcheri*, and a candidate species, the Eastern massasauga rattlesnake, *Sistrurus catenatus catenatus,* may be present within the project area. The Pitcher's thistle may be present in section 4, T2S, R17W, Van Buren County. Eastern massasauga rattlesnakes may be present in sections 31 and 32, T6N, R17W, and section 20, T8S, R18W, Berrien County.

Section 7 of the Act, requires Federal agencies, or their designees, to consider impacts to federally listed threatened and endangered species for all federally funded, constructed, permitted, or licensed projects. Federally listed species are also protected by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources through Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994, P. A. 451.

We suggest that a survey of the proposed project areas be conducted to determine if the Pitcher's thistle is present. Should information indicate that the species is present within the impact area of the proposed project, a biological assessment should be prepared. The federal action agency's compliance requirements under the Act are outlined in Enclosure B.

Should the biological assessment determine that a listed species is likely to be affected (adversely or beneficially) by the project, the Federal action agency should request formal Section 7 consultation with this Service office. Even if the biological assessment shows a "no affect" situation, we would appreciate receiving a copy for our information.

Candidate species are currently under review by the Service for consideration of listing as endangered or threatened. These species have no protection under the federal Endangered Species Act and a determination of "may affect" for candidates does not require preparation of a biological assessment or consultation with the Service.

Candidates which may be proposed and listed in the future are included as advanced notice to federal agencies or their designees. We encourage consideration of this species in environmental planning. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to adversely impact a candidate, your agency may request technical assistance from this office.

Secuon 7(d) of the Act underscores the requirement that the federal agency, or their designee, or the permit/license applicant shall not make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources during the consultation period which in affect would deny the formulation or implementation of reasonable alternatives regarding their actions on any endangered or threatened species.

If the project is modified or new information about the project becomes available that indicates additional listed or proposed species may be present and/or affected, consultation with this Service office should be reinitiated.

We further advise that should any other species occurring in the project areas become Federally listed or proposed, the Federal action agency for the work would also be required to reevaluate its responsibilities under the Act. Since threatened and endangered species data is continually updated, we suggest the lead federal agency annually request an updated Federal list of the species occurring in the project areas.

Your concern for endangered species is appreciated and we look forward to continued coordination with your agency. Any questions can be directed to Tameka Dandridge of this office at (517) 351-8315.

Sincerely,

for Craig A. Czarnecki
Field Supervisor

cc: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division, Lansing, MI
(Attn: Lori Sargent)

Enclosure B

FEDERAL AGENCIES' RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER SECTIONS 7(a) AND 7(c) OF THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

SECTION 7(a) - Consultation/Conference

Requires:

1. Federal agencies to utilize their authorities to carry out programs to conserve endangered and threatened species;

2. Consultation with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) when a federal action may affect a listed endangered or threatened species to ensure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by a federal agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat. The process is initiated by the federal agency after they have determined if their action may affect (adversely or beneficially) a listed species; and

3. Conference with Service when a federal action is likely to jeopardize the continued existence of a proposed species or result in destruction or a adverse modification of proposed critical habitat.

SECTION 7(c) - Biological Assessment for Major Construction Projects [1]

Requires federal agencies or their designees to prepare a Biological Assessment (BA) for major construction projects. The purpose of the BA is to identify any proposed and/or listed species which is/are likely to be affected by a construction project. The process is initiated by a federal agency in requesting a list of proposed and listed threatened and endangered species. The BA should be completed within 180 days after its initiation (or within such a time period as is mutually agreeable). If the BA is not initiated within 90 days of receipt of the species list, please verify the accuracy of the list with the Service. Sec. 7(d) states agencies shall not make any irreversible or irretrievable commitment of resources during the consultation process which would result in violation of the requirements under Section 7(a)(2). Planning, design, and administrative actions may be taken; however, no construction may begin.

To complete the BA, your agency or its designee should: (1) conduct an onsite inspection of the area to be affected by the proposal which may include a detailed survey of the area to determine if the species is present and whether suitable habitat exists for either expanding the existing population or potential reintroduction of the species; (2) review literature and scientific data to determine species distribution, habitat needs, and other biological requirements; (3) interview experts including those within the Service, state conservation departments, universities, and others who may have data not yet published in scientific literature; (4) review and analyze the effects of the proposal on the species in terms of individuals and populations, including consideration of cumulative effects of the proposal on the species and its habitat; (5) analyze alternative actions that may provide conservation measures; and (6) prepare a report documenting the results, including a discussion of study methods used, any problems encountered, and other relevant information. Upon completion, the report should be forwarded to: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 2651 Coolidge Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823-5202.

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[1] "Major Construction project" means any major federal action which significantly affects the quality of the human environment as referred to in NEPA (requiring an EIS) designed primarily to result in the building or erection of man-made structures such as dams, buildings, roads, pipelines, channels, and the like. This includes federal actions such as permits, grants, licenses, or other forms of federal authorization or approval which may result in construction.

Indiana Bat Life History

Summering Indiana bats roost in trees in riparian, bottomland, and upland forests. Roost trees generally have exfoliating bark which allows the bat to roost between the bark and bole of the tree. Cavities and crevices in trees are also used for roosting. A variety of tree species are known to be used for roosts. Structure (i.e. crevices or exfoliating bark) is probably more important than the species of tree in determining if a tree is a suitable roost site.

Male bats disperse throughout the range and roost individually or in small groups. In contrast, reproductive females form larger groups, referred to as maternity colonies. Female Indiana bats exhibit strong site fidelity to summer roosting and foraging areas, that is, they return to the same summer range annually to bear their young. Traditional summer sites are essential to the reproductive success of local populations.

Indiana bat maternity sites generally consist of one or more primary maternity roost trees which are used repeatedly by large numbers of bats, and varying numbers of alternate roosts, which may be used less frequently and by smaller numbers of bats (Kurta et al. 1993). Bats move among roosts within a season and when a particular roost becomes unavailable from one year to the next. It is not known how many alternate roosts must be available to assure retention of a colony within a particular area, but large, nearby forest tracts appear important (Callahan 1993). In addition to having exfoliating bark, roost trees must be of sufficient diameter. Trees in excess of 16 inch diameter at breast height (dbh) are considered optimal for maternity colony roost sites, but trees in excess of 9 inch dbh appear to provide suitable maternity roosting habitat (Romme et al. 1995). Male Indiana bat have been observed roosting in trees as small as 3 inch dbh.

Literature Citations

Callahan, E.V., III. 1993. Indiana bat summer habitat requirements. M.S. Thesis. University of Missouri, Columbia. 84 pp.

Kurta, A., D. King, J.A. Teramino, J.M. Stribley and K.J. Williams. 1993. Summer roosts of the endangered Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*) on the northern edge of its range. American. Midland Naturalist 129:132-138.

Romme, R.C., K. Tyrell, and V. Brack, Jr. 1995. Literature summary and habitat suitability index model: components of summer habitat for the Indiana bat (*Myotis sodalis*). Report to Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Federal Aid Project E-1-7, Study No. 8. 38 pp.

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AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

Mr. Scott Pruitt
Supervisor
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
620 South Walker Street
Bloomington, IN 47403

August 27, 2002

Dear Mr. Pruitt:

Subject: D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant License Renewal, Request for Information on Listed Species and Important Habitats

American Electric Power (AEP) is preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to review the operating licenses for D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2. The Unit 1 license expires October 25, 2014, and the Unit 2 license expires December 23, 2017. AEP intends to submit this application for license renewal in November 2003. As part of the license renewal process, the NRC requires license applicants to "assess the impact of the proposed action on threatened or endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act" (10 CFR 51.53). The NRC will consult with your office under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act to determine if any listed species or critical habitat occurs in the project area. By contacting you in advance, we hope to identify any issues that need to be addressed or information required to expedite the NRC's consultation.

AEP has operated D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant (CNP) and associated transmission lines since 1974. CNP is in Lake Charter Township, Berrien County, Michigan, on the eastern shoreline of Lake Michigan. This location is approximately 55 miles east of downtown Chicago, 55 miles southwest of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and 11 miles south-southwest of the twin cities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, Michigan (Figure 2-1). The nearest town is Bridgman, which is approximately two miles south of CNP (Figure 2-2). The CNP properly consists of approximately 650 acres owned by AEP and includes 4,350 feet of lake frontage. The site extends approximately one and one quarter miles eastward from Lake Michigan.

AEP has approximately 230 miles of transmission line corridors that occupy approximately 4,600 acres for the specific purpose of connecting CNP to the transmission system. Figure 3-2 is a map of the transmission systems of interest, which consists of six 345-kilovolt lines and one 765-kilovolt line. All seven lines begin at CNP. The Palisades No. 1 and No. 2 are 345-kilovolt lines that run north to the Palisades Nuclear Plant. The Olive 345 kilovolt line runs eastward for approximately 5 miles and then south to the Olive Substation west of South Bend, Indiana. The Twin Branch No. 1 and No. 2 345-kilovolt lines connect to the Twin Branch Substation near South Bend. The Collingwood 345-kilovolt line terminates at the Collingwood Substation near Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Dumont 765-kilovolt line runs south from the plant to the Dumont Substation southwest of South Bend.

AEP is committed to the conservation of significant natural habitats and protected species, and believes that operation of the station and its transmission lines since 1974 has had no adverse impact on any threatened or endangered species. AEP has no plans to alter current operations over

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August 27, 2002
Mr. Scott Pruitt
Page 2

the license renewal period. Any maintenance activities necessary to support license renewal would be limited to previously disturbed areas. No major expansion of existing facilities is planned, and no additional land disturbance is anticipated in support of license renewal. As a consequence, we believe that operation of CNP, including maintenance of the transmission lines, over the license renewal period (an additional 20 years) would not adversely affect any threatened or endangered species.

We would appreciate if you would provide us with any information you may have about any threatened or endangered species or ecologically significant habitats that may occur on the 650 acre CNP site or along associated transmission corridors in Indiana. This will enable us to meet our application preparation schedule. We will include a copy of this letter and your response in the license renewal application that we submit to the NRC. Please call me at (616) 697-5095 if you have any questions or require additional information to review the proposed action.

Sincerely,

J. P. Carlson
Environmental Manager

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Attachments: Figure 2-1
Figure 2-2
Figure 3-2

2002-1601

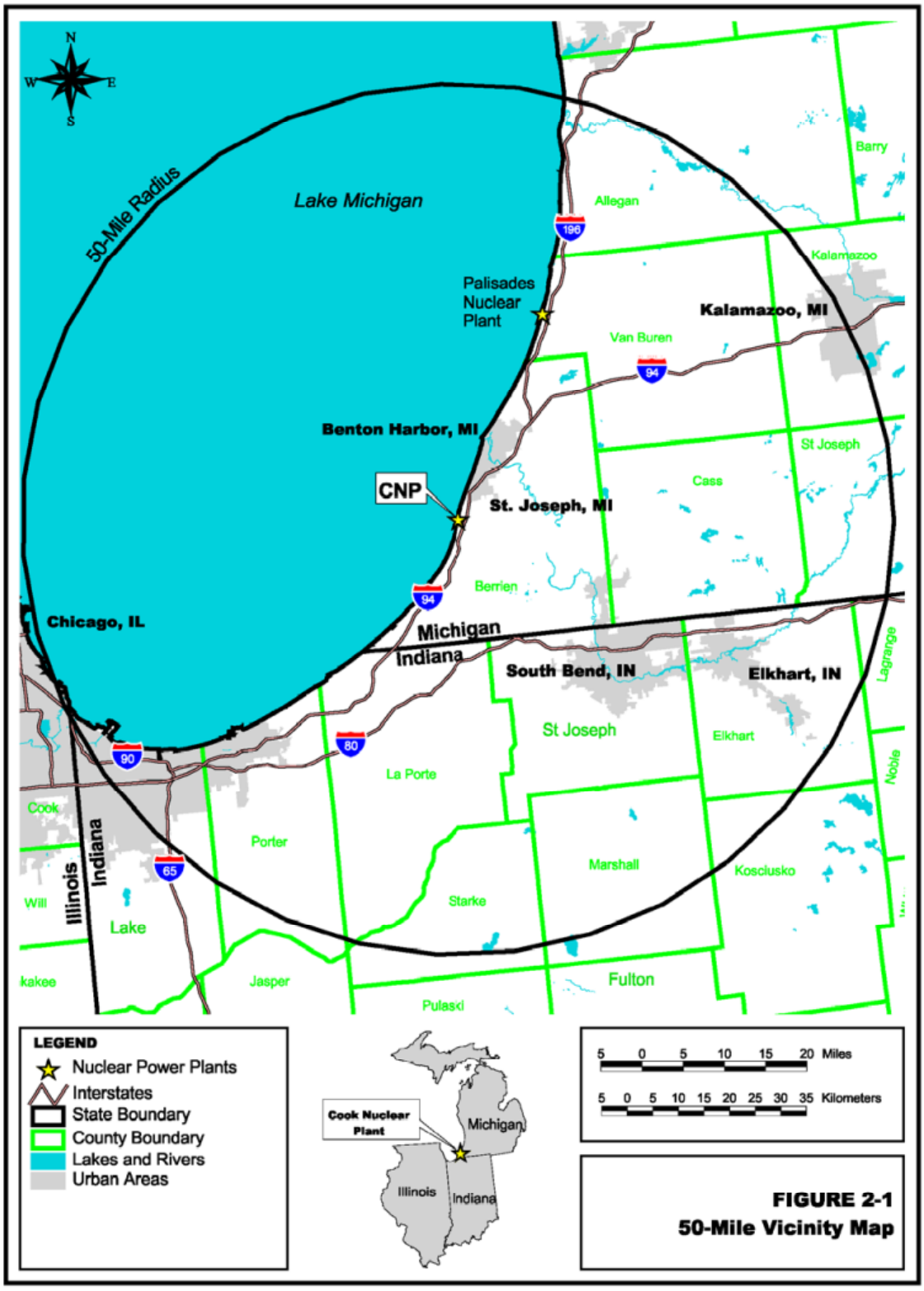
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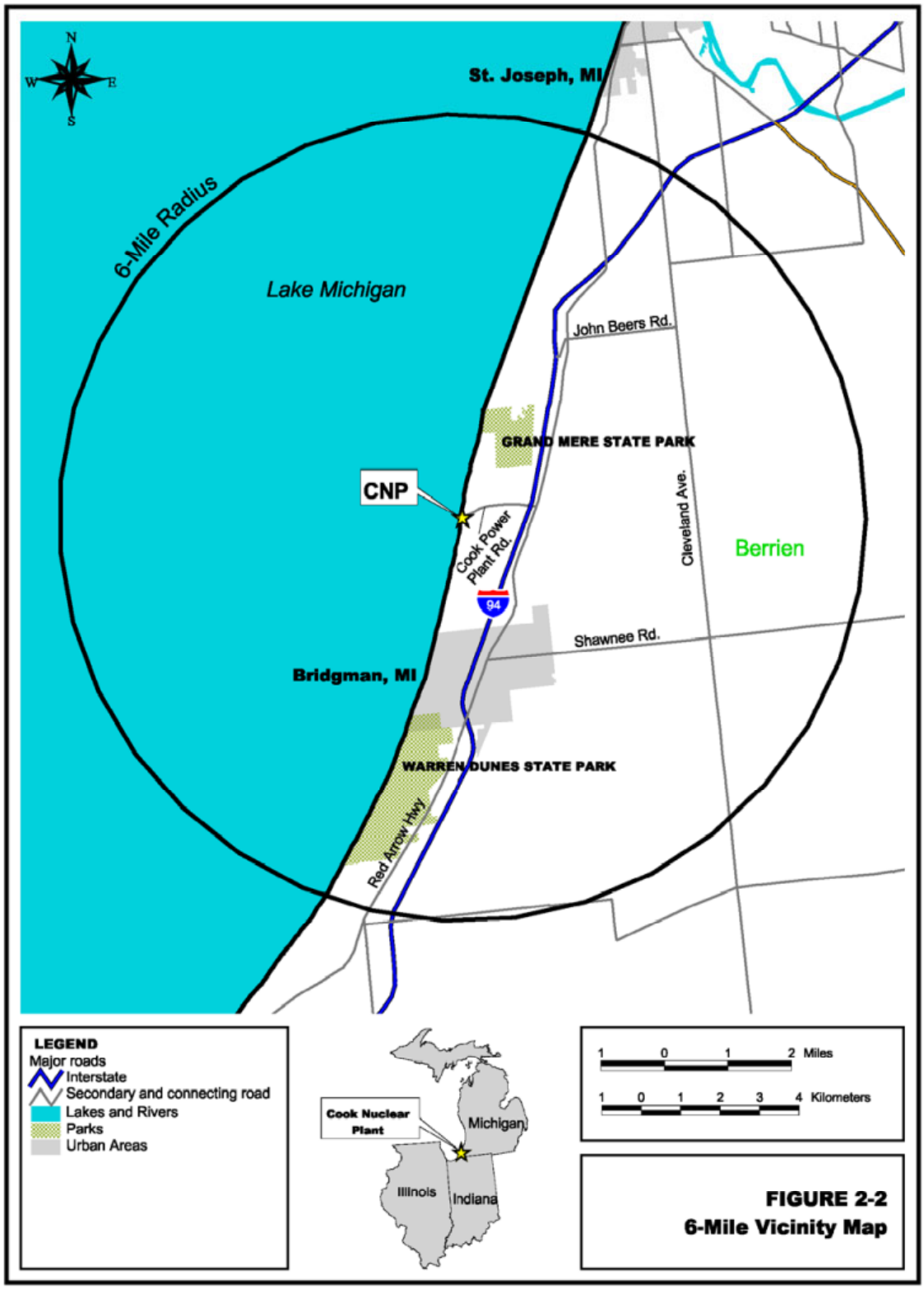
FIGURE 2-1
50-Mile Vicinity Map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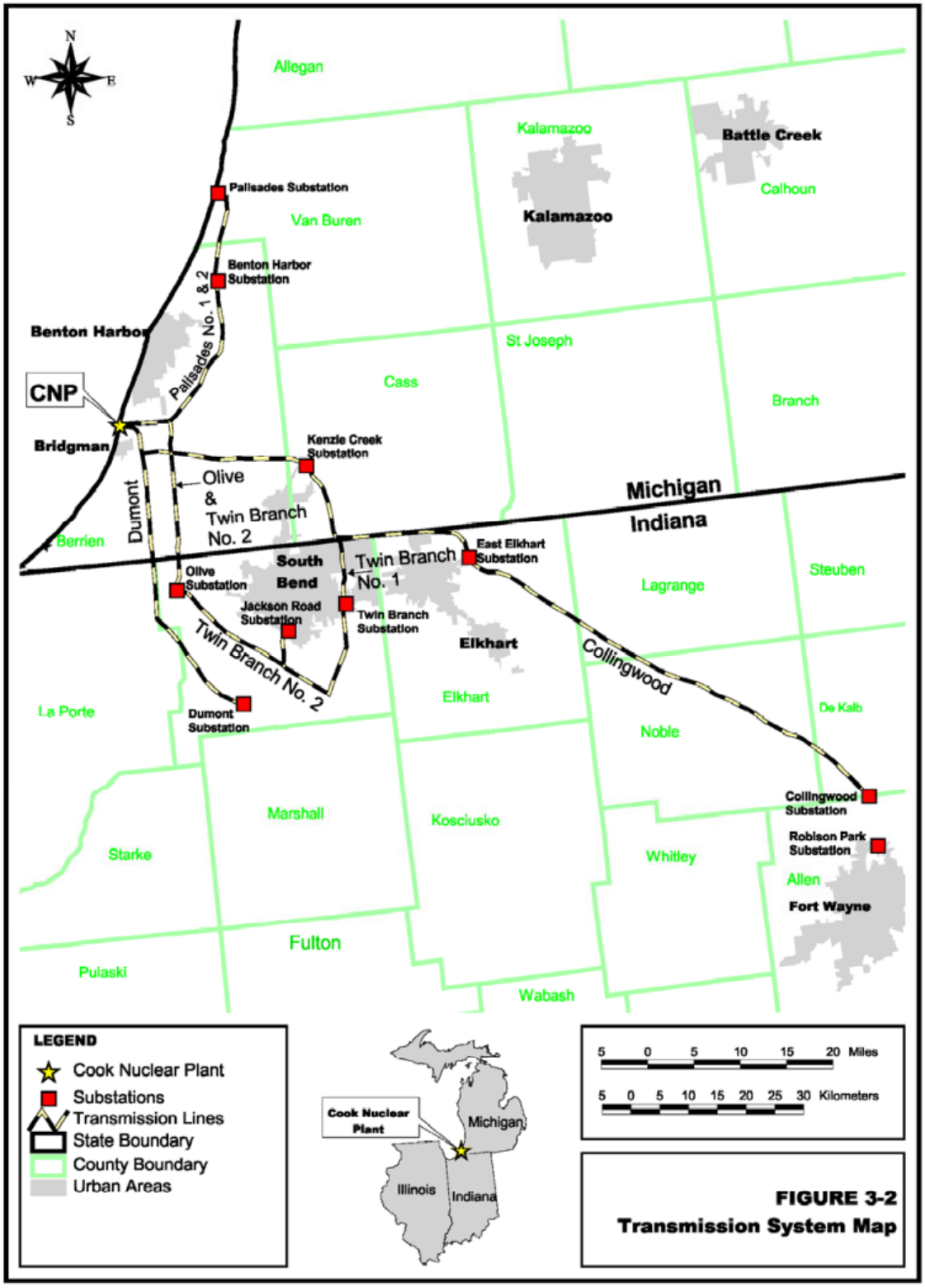
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Michigan
Indiana
Dumont
Berrien
East Elkhart Substation
Olive Substation
South Bend
Twin Branch No. 1
Steuben
Lagrange
Jackson Road Substation
Twin Branch Substation
Elkhart
Collingwood
Twin Branch No. 2
La Porte
Dumont Substation
Elkhart
De Kalb
Noble
Collingwood Substation
Marshall
Kosciusko
Robison Park Substation
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Transmission System Map

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American Electric Power
Cook Nuclear Plant
One Cook Place
Bridgman, MI 49106
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AMERICAN ELECTRIC POWER

Ms. Lori Sargent
Wildlife Division
Michigan Department of Natural Resources
P. O. Box 30444
Lansing, MI 48909

August 27, 2002

Dear Ms. Sargent:

Subject: D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant License Renewal, Request for Information on Listed Species and Important Habitats

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AEP is committed to the conservation of significant natural habitats and protected species, and believes that operation of the station and its transmission lines since 1974 has had no adverse impact on any threatened or endangered species. AEP has no plans to alter current operations over

2002-1599

August 27, 2002
Ms. Lori Sargent
Page 2

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We would appreciate if you would provide us with any information you may have about any threatened or endangered species or ecologically significant habitats that may occur on the 650 acre CNP site or along associated transmission corridors in Michigan. This will enable us to meet our application preparation schedule. We will include a copy of this letter and your response in the license renewal application that we submit to the NRC. Please call me at (616) 697-5095 if you have any questions or require additional information to review the proposed action.

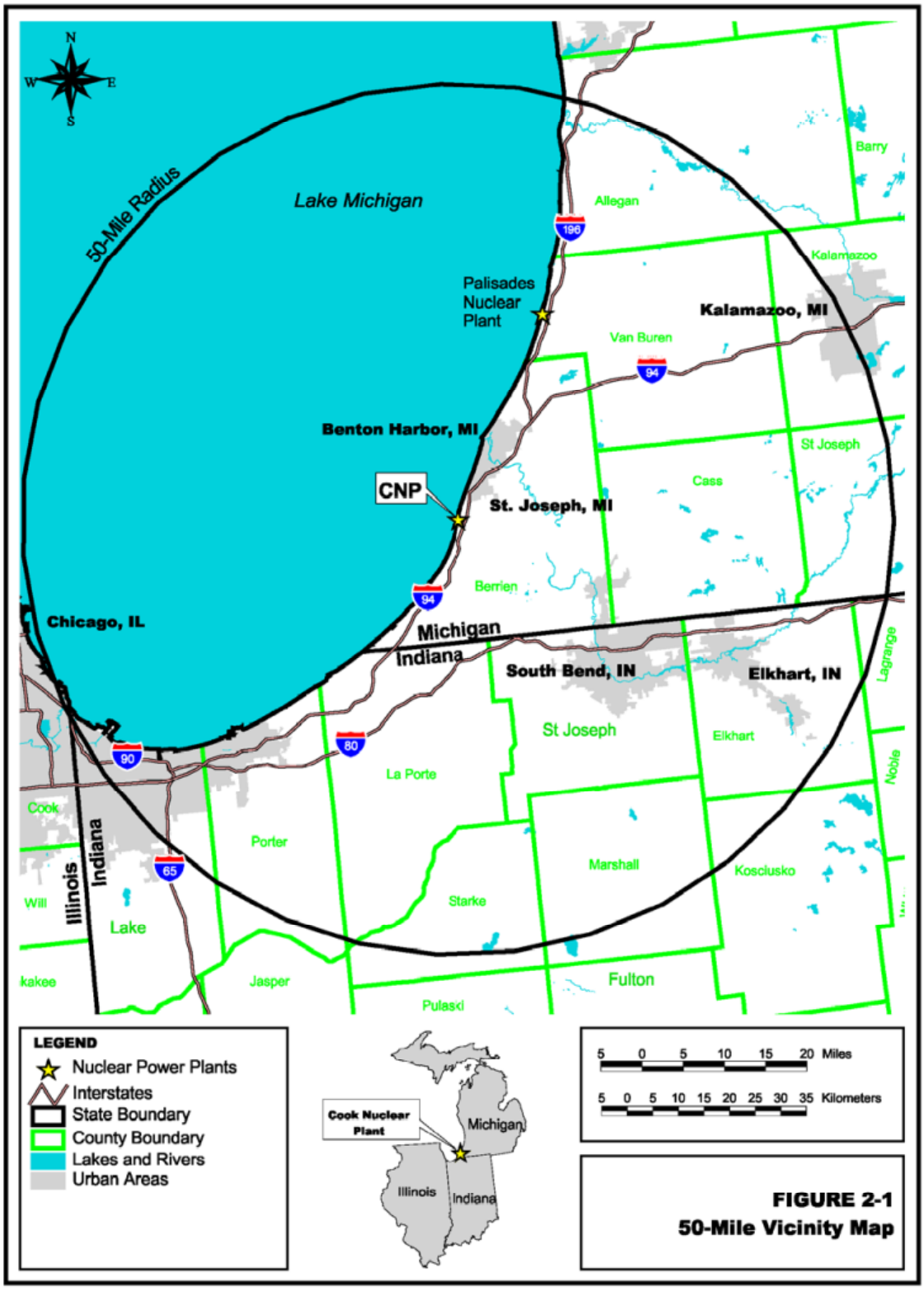
Sincerely,

J. P. Carlson
Environmental Manager

/mas

Attachments: Figure 2-1
Figure 2-2
Figure 3-2

2002-1599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Elkhart, IN
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Kalamazoo
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Lagrange
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Interstates
State Boundary
County Boundary
Lakes and Rivers
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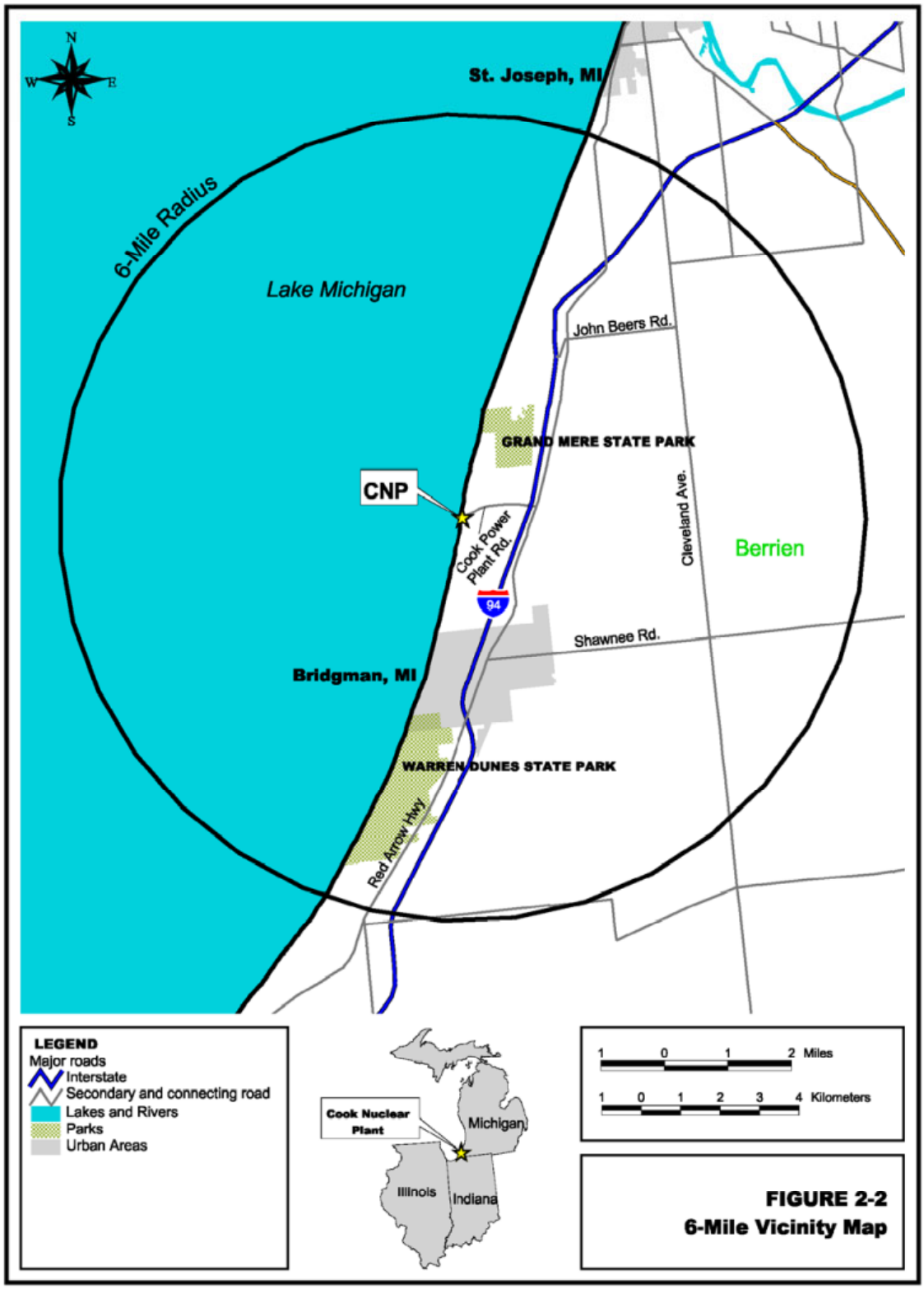
FIGURE 2-1
50-Mile Vicinity Map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Bridgman, MI
WARREN DUNES STATE PARK
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Lakes and Rivers
Parks
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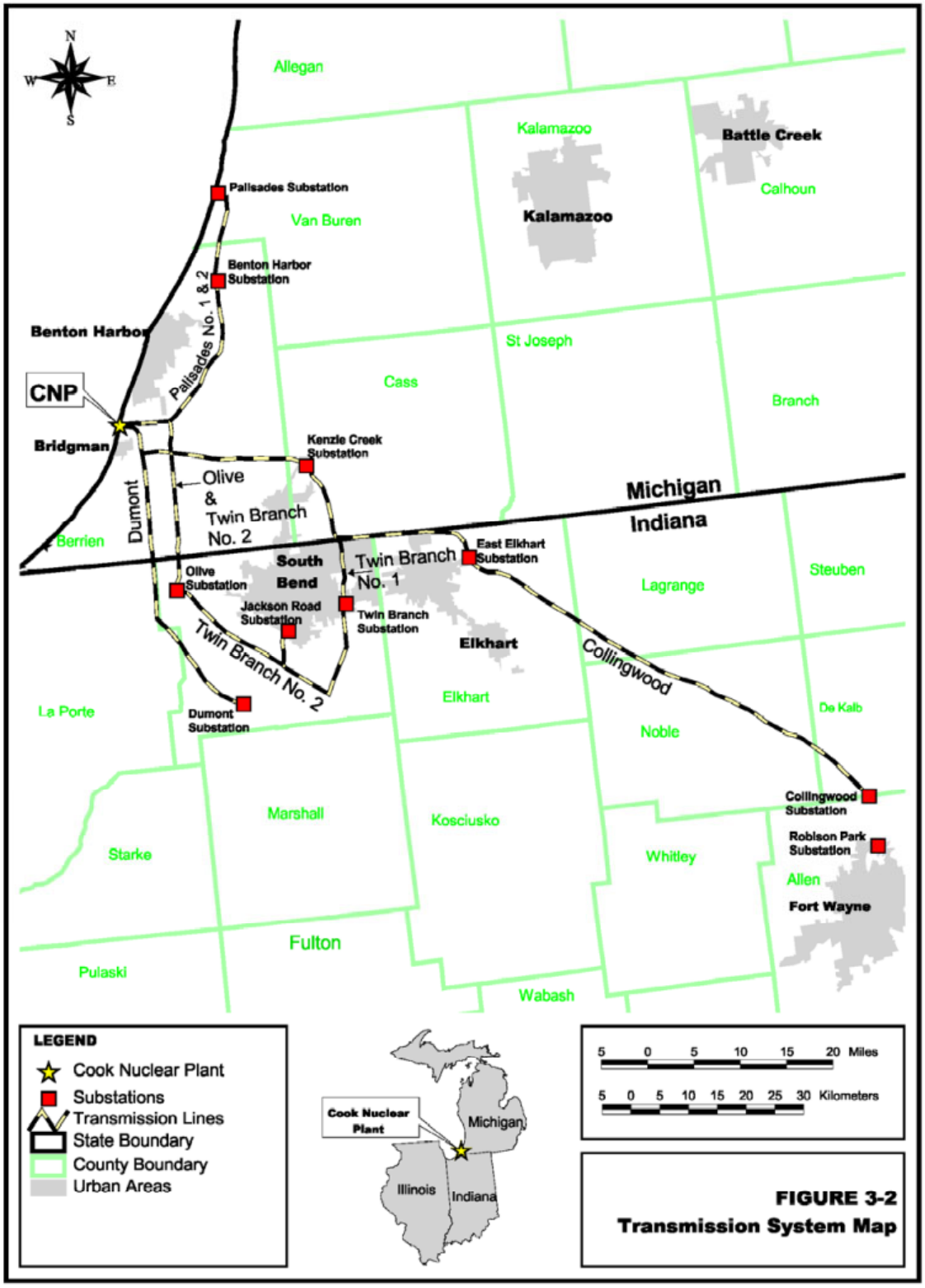
FIGURE 2-2
6-Mile Vicinity Map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East Elkhart Substation
Twin Branch No. 1
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De Kalb
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Robison Park Substation
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Fort Wayne
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FIGURE 3-2
Transmission System Map

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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING

JOHN ENGLER
GOVERNOR

K. L. COOL
DIRECTOR

September 16, 2002

Mr. J.P. Carlson
American Electric Power
Cook Nuclear Plant
One Cook Place
Bridgman, MI 49106

RE: **D.C. Cook Nuclear Plant license renewal**

Dear Mr. Carlson:

The location of the proposed project was checked against known localities for natural features. Unique natural features are recorded in a statewide database. This continuously updated database is a comprehensive source of existing data on Michigan's endangered, threatened, or otherwise significant plant and animal species, natural plant communities, and other natural features. Records in the database indicate that a qualified observer has documented the presence of special natural features at a site. The absence of records in the database for a particular site may mean that the site has not been surveyed. Records are not always up-to-date, and may require verification. In some cases, the only way to obtain a definitive statement on the status of natural features is to have a competent biologist perform a complete field survey.

Under Act 451 of 1994, the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, Part 365, Endangered Species Protection, "a person shall not take, possess, transport, …fish, plants, and wildlife indigenous to the state and determined to be endangered or threatened," unless first receiving an Endangered Species Permit from the Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division. *Responsibility to protect endangered and threatened species is not limited to the list below. Other species may be present that have not been recorded in the database.*

The presence of threatened or endangered species does not preclude activities or development, but may require alterations in the project plan. Special concern species are not protected under endangered species legislation, but recommendations regarding their protection may be provided. Protection of special concern species will help prevent them from declining to the point of being listed as threatened or endangered in the future.

If the project is located on or adjacent to wetlands, inland lakes, or streams, additional permits may be required. Contact the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Land and Water Management Division, P.O. Box 30473, Lansing, MI 48909 (517-373-1170).

The following is a summary of the results for the project in Berrien County, T6S R19W Sections 6:

> The project should have no impact on rare or unique natural features at the location specified above if it proceeds according to the plans provided. Please contact me for an evaluation if the project plans are changed.

Thank you for your advance coordination in addressing the protection of Michigan's natural resource heritage. Responses and correspondence can be sent to: Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division – Natural Heritage Program, PO Box 30180, Lansing, MI 48909. If you have further questions, please call me at 517-373-1263.

Sincerely,

Lori G. Sargent
Endangered Species Specialist
Wildlife Division

LGS:kpg

STEVENS T. MASON BUILDING • P.O. BOX 30028 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909-7528
www.michigan.gov • (517) 373-2329

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American Electric Power
Cook Nuclear Plant
One Cook Place
Bridgman, MI 49106
www.aep.com

Ms. Linnea Floyd
Division of Fish and Wildlife
Indiana Department of Natural Resources
402 West Washington Street
Room W273
Indianapolis, IN 46204

August 27, 2002

Dear Ms. Floyd:

Subject: D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant License Renewal, Request for Information on Listed Species and Important Habitats

American Electric Power (AEP) is preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to review the operating licenses for D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant Units 1 and 2. The Unit 1 license expires October 25, 2014, and the Unit 2 license expires December 23, 2017. AEP intends to submit this application for license renewal in November 2003. As part of the license renewal process, the NRC requires license applicants to "assess the impact of the proposed action on threatened or endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act" (10 CFR 51.53). The NRC will consult with your office under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act to determine if any listed species or critical habitat occurs in the project area. By contacting you in advance, we hope to identify any issues that need to be addressed or information required to expedite the NRC's consultation.

AEP has operated D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant (CNP) and associated transmission lines since 1974. CNP is in Lake Charter Township, Berrien County, Michigan, on the eastern shoreline of Lake Michigan. This location is approximately 55 miles east of downtown Chicago, 55 miles southwest of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and 11 miles south-southwest of the twin cities of St. Joseph and Benton Harbor, Michigan (Figure 2-1). The nearest town is Bridgman, which is approximately two miles south of CNP (Figure 2-2). The CNP properly consists of approximately 650 acres owned by AEP and includes 4,350 feet of lake frontage. The site extends approximately one and one quarter miles eastward from Lake Michigan.

AEP has approximately 230 miles of transmission line corridors that occupy approximately 4,600 acres for the specific purpose of connecting CNP to the transmission system. Figure 3-2 is a map of the transmission systems of interest, which consists of six 345-kilovolt lines and one 765-kilovolt line. All seven lines begin at CNP. The Palisades No. 1 and No. 2 are 345-kilovolt lines that run north to the Palisades Nuclear Plant. The Olive 345 kilovolt line runs eastward for approximately 5 miles and then south to the Olive Substation west of South Bend, Indiana. The Twin Branch No. 1 and No. 2 345-kilovolt lines connect to the Twin Branch Substation near South Bend. The Collingwood 345-kilovolt line terminates at the Collingwood Substation near Fort Wayne, Indiana. The Dumont 765-kilovolt line runs south from the plant to the Dumont Substation southwest of South Bend.

AEP is committed to the conservation of significant natural habitats and protected species, and believes that operation of the station and its transmission lines since 1974 has had no adverse impact on any threatened or endangered species. AEP has no plans to alter current operations over

2002-1600

August 27, 2002
Ms. Linnea Floyd
Page 2

the license renewal period. Any maintenance activities necessary to support license renewal would be limited to previously disturbed areas. No major expansion of existing facilities is planned, and no additional land disturbance is anticipated in support of license renewal. As a consequence, we believe that operation of CNP, including maintenance of the transmission lines, over the license renewal period (an additional 20 years) would not adversely affect any threatened or endangered species.

We would appreciate if you would provide us with any information you may have about any threatened or endangered species or ecologically significant habitats that may occur on the 650 acre CNP site or along associated transmission corridors in Indiana. This will enable us to meet our application preparation schedule. We will include a copy of this letter and your response in the license renewal application that we submit to the NRC. Please call me at (616) 697-5095 if you have any questions or require additional information to review the proposed action.

Sincerely,

J. P. Carlson
Environmental Manager

/mas

Attachments: Figure 2-1
Figure 2-2
Figure 3-2

2002-1600

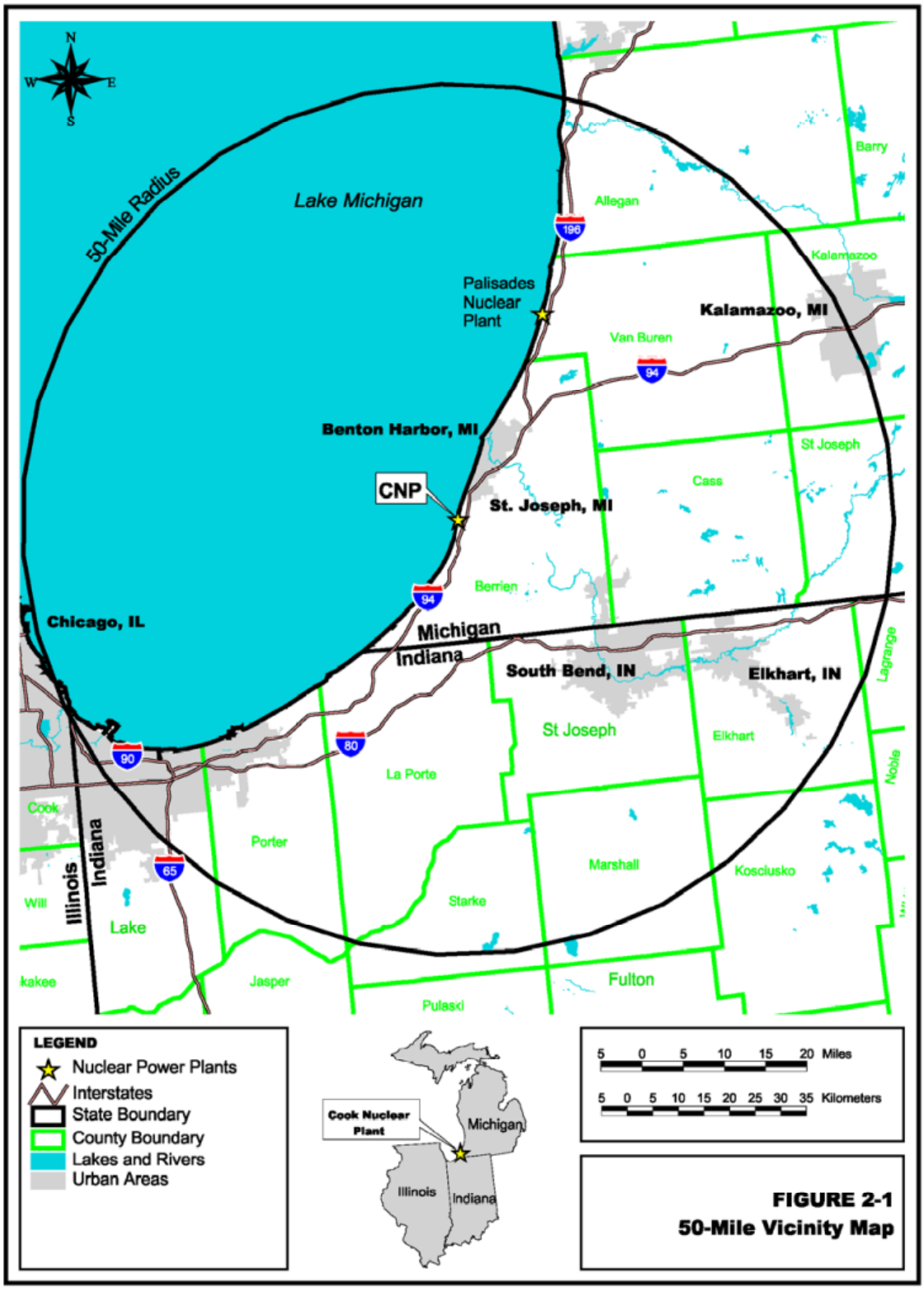
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FIGURE 2-1
50-Mile Vicinity Map

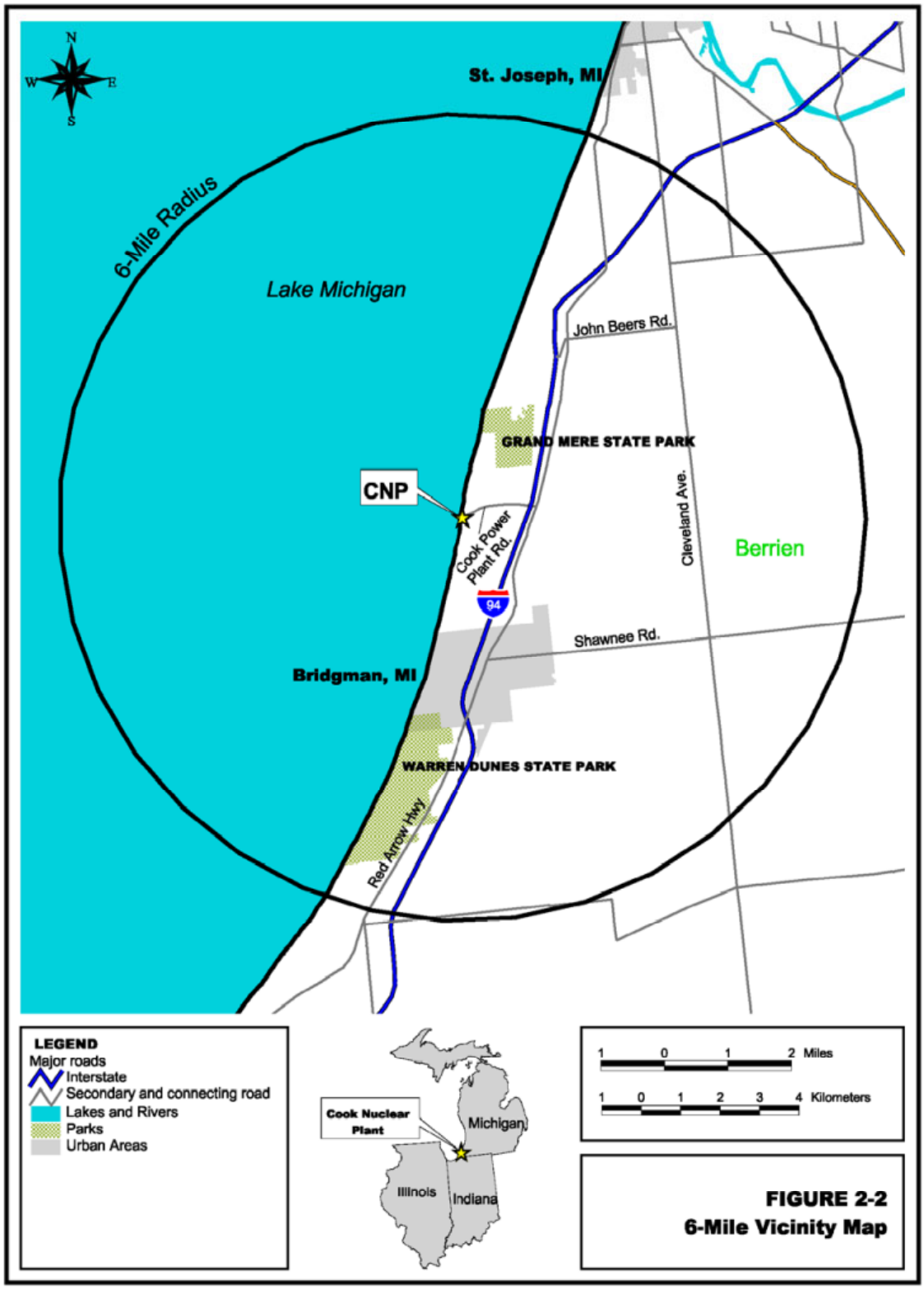
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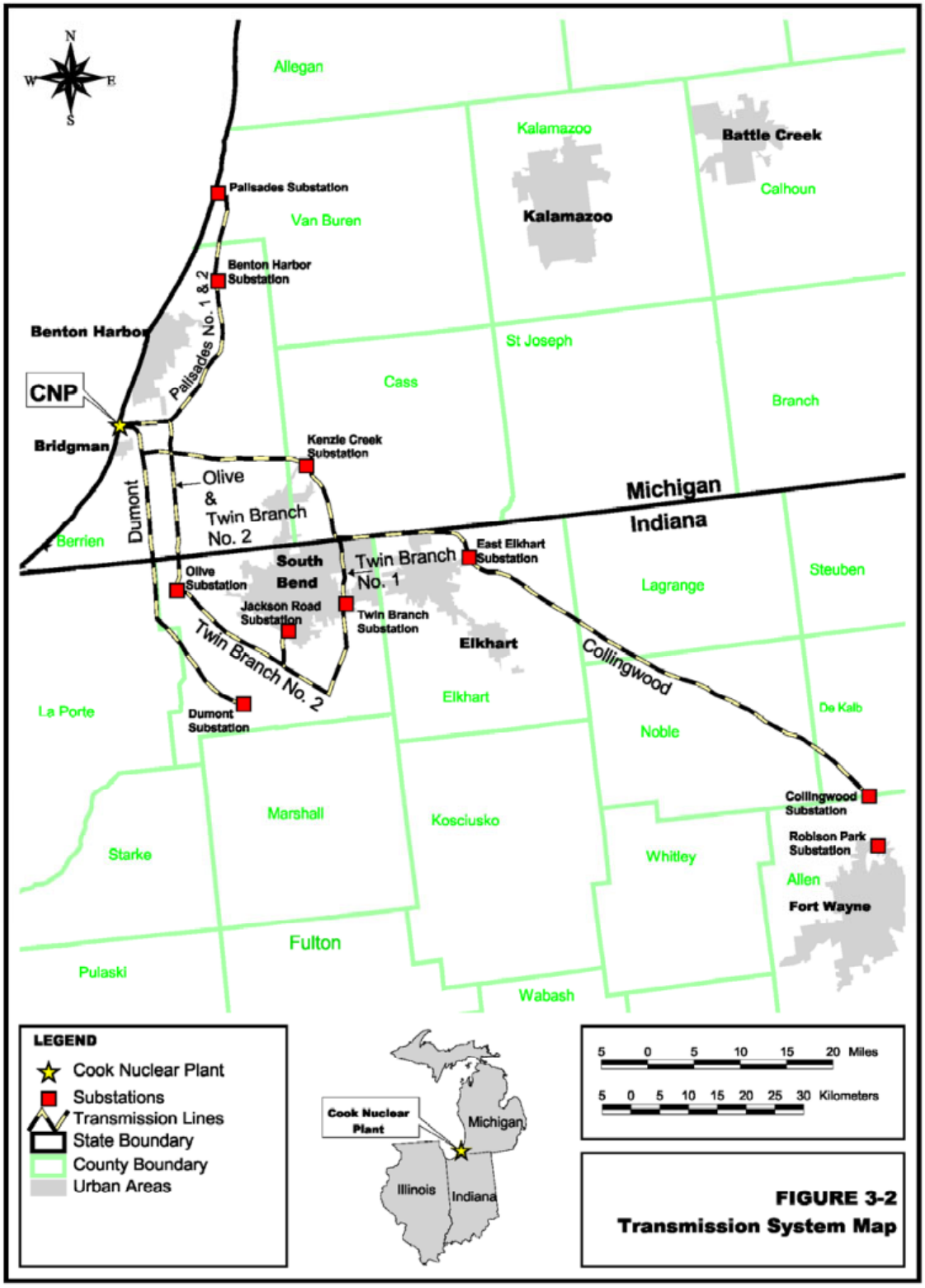
FIGURE 2-2
6-Mile Vicinity Map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CNP
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Bridgman
Kenzie Creek Substation
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Dumont
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East Elkhart Substation
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South Bend
Olive Substation
Steuben
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Twin Branch Substation
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Robison Park Substation
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Fulton
Pulaski
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Transmission Lines
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Urban Areas
Cook Nuclear Plant
Michigan
Illinois
Indiana
5 0 5 10 15 20 Miles
5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 Kilometers
FIGURE 3-2
Transmission System Map

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DNR Indiana Department of Natural Resources

Frank O'Bannon, Governor
John Goss, Director

Environmental Unit
Division of Water
402 W. Washington Street, Rm. W264
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2641

8 October 2003

Mr. John Carlson
American Electric Power
Nuclear Generation Group
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, Michigan 49107-1373

Re: DNR #9832-1 - DC Cook nuclear plant license renewal, request for information on listed species and important habitats; Multi County (St. Joseph, Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble, DeKalb, and Allen Counties)

Dear Mr. Carlson:

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has reviewed the above referenced project per your request. Our agency offers the following comments for your information and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

The Flood Control Act (IC 14-28-1) requires the prior formal approval of the Department of Natural Resources for any proposal to construct, excavate, or fill in or on the floodway of a stream or other flowing waterbody which has a drainage area greater than one square mile. If any construction is proposed, a permit may need to be obtained from our Department.

The Natural Heritage Program's data have been checked. Because the map provided is at a scale which does not permit the kind of detailed review that is typically conducted (i.e. a 7.5 minute topographic map scale), some areas or listed species may occur along the transmission lines that we were unable to determine. The following areas may be near transmission lines: Spicer Lake Nature Preserve (St. Joseph County); remnants of Wolverton Fen Natural Area (St. Joseph County); Wharton and Catfish Lake basins (St. Joseph County); Elkhart Bog Nature Preserve (Elkhart County); Conley Wildlife Refuge (Elkhart County); and the Garret Woods Natural Area Registry Site (DeKalb County). Please see the attached maps for the location of these areas.

Fish, wildlife, and botanical resource losses can be minimized through implementation of the following measures. Avoid impacting the above listed areas. Utilize best management practices to protect fish, wildlife, and botanical resources when manipulating the vegetation in the existing right-of-way.

Our agency appreciates this opportunity to be of service and apologizes for not being able to respond sooner in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact Christie Kiefer, Environmental Coordinator at (317) 232-4160 or at 1-877-928-3755 if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Michael W. Neyer, PE
Director
Division of Water

Enclosures

Note: Please include the above DNR # on any future correspondence regarding this project.

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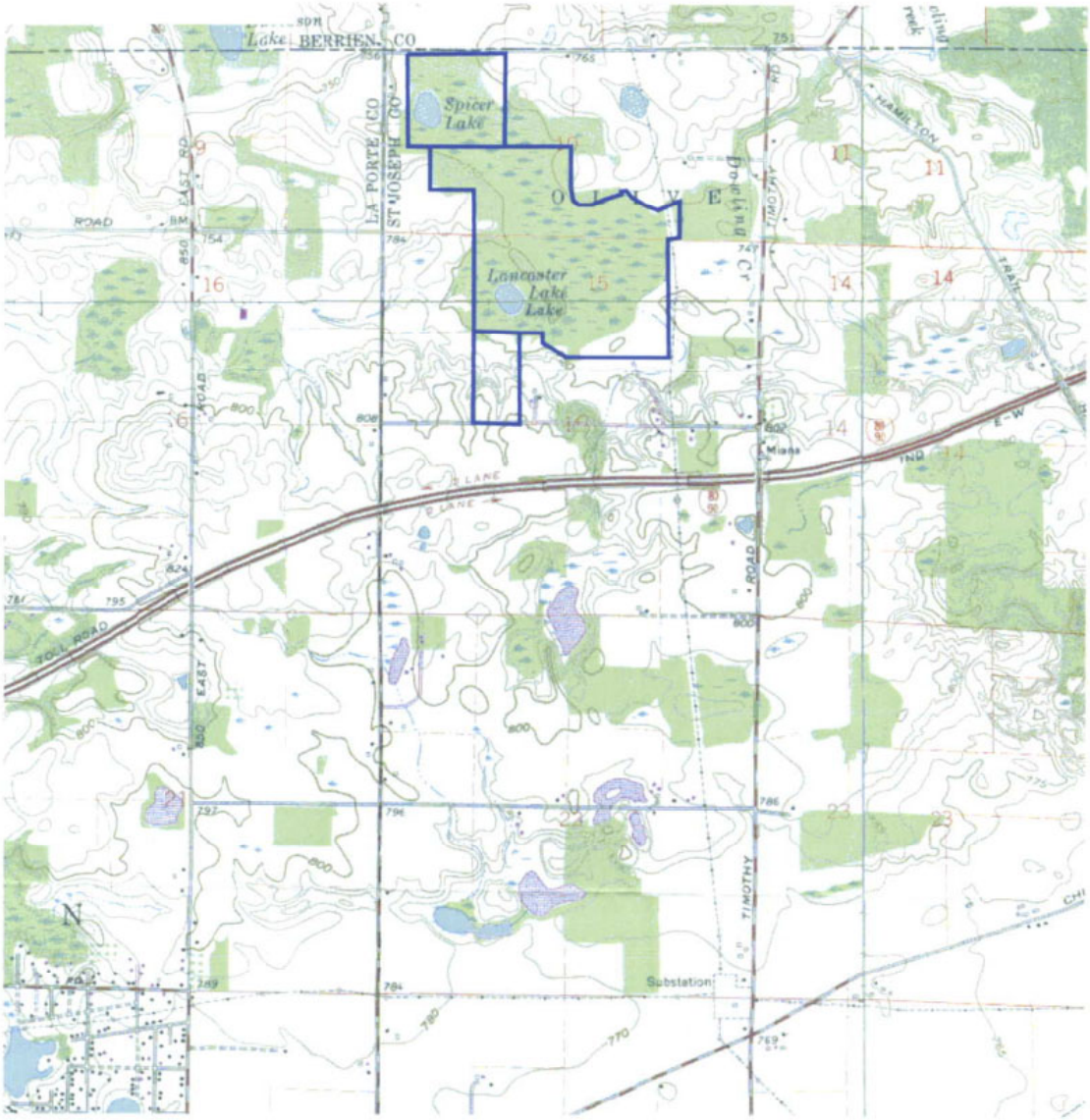
Spicer Lake Nature Preserve, St. Joseph County, Indiana



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Environmental Review #9832-1
IDNR Nature Preserves
September 10, 2003

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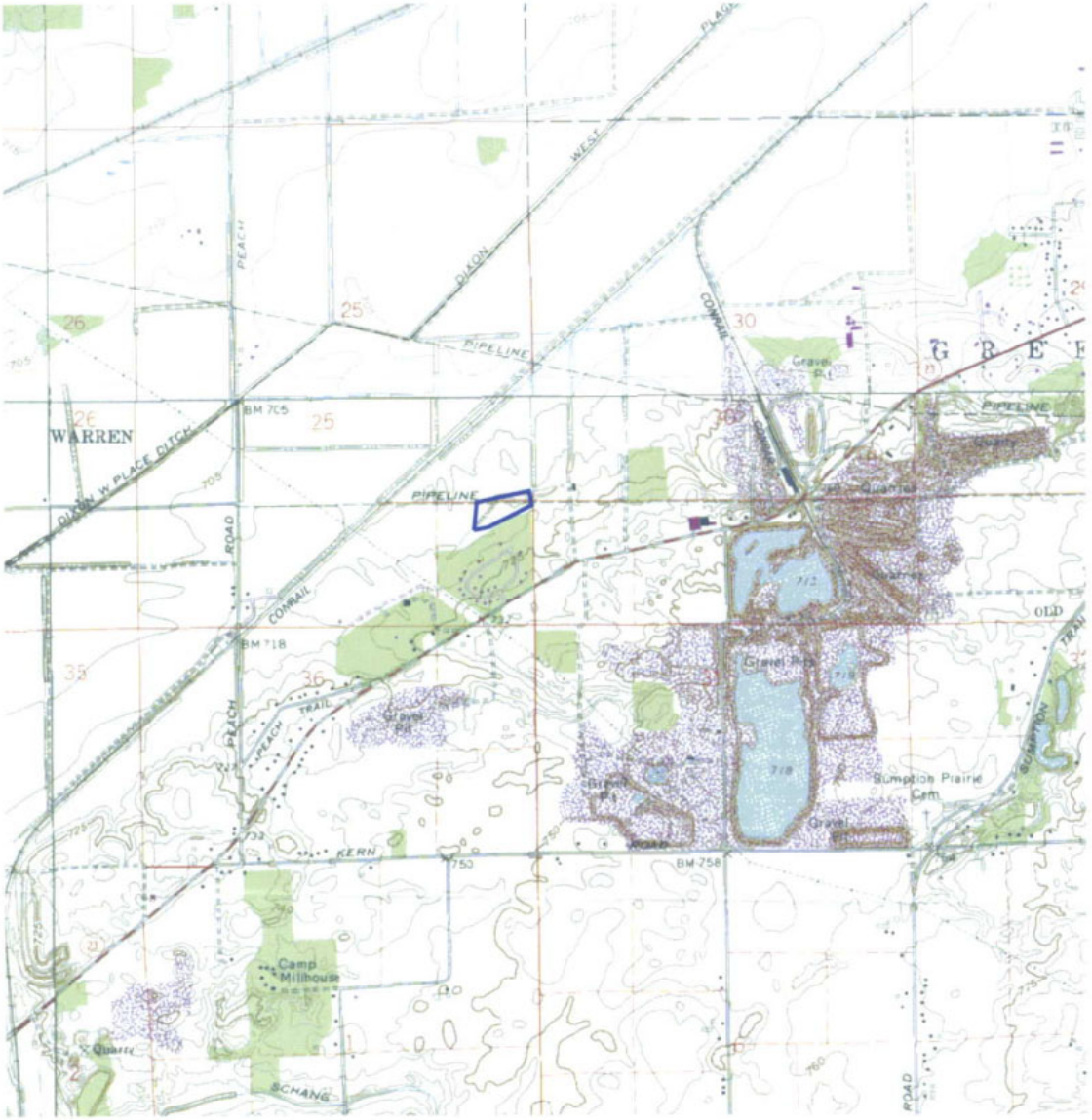
Natural Area

Wolverton Fen, St. Joseph County, Indiana



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Environmental Review #9832-1
IDNR Nature Preserves
September 10, 2003

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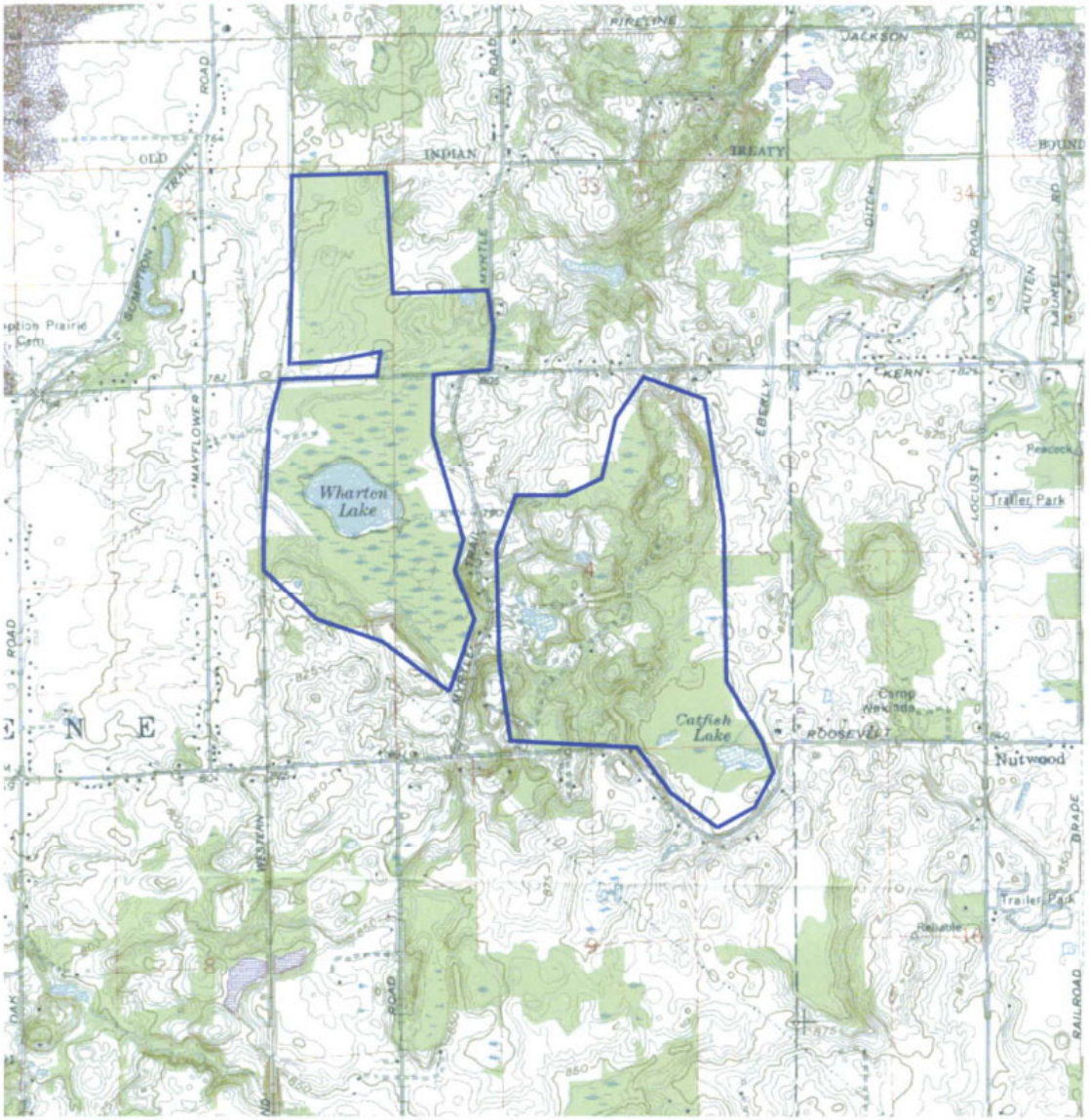
Catfish and Wharton Lakes, St. Joseph County, Indiana



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Environmental Review #9832-1
IDNR Nature Preserves
September 10, 2003

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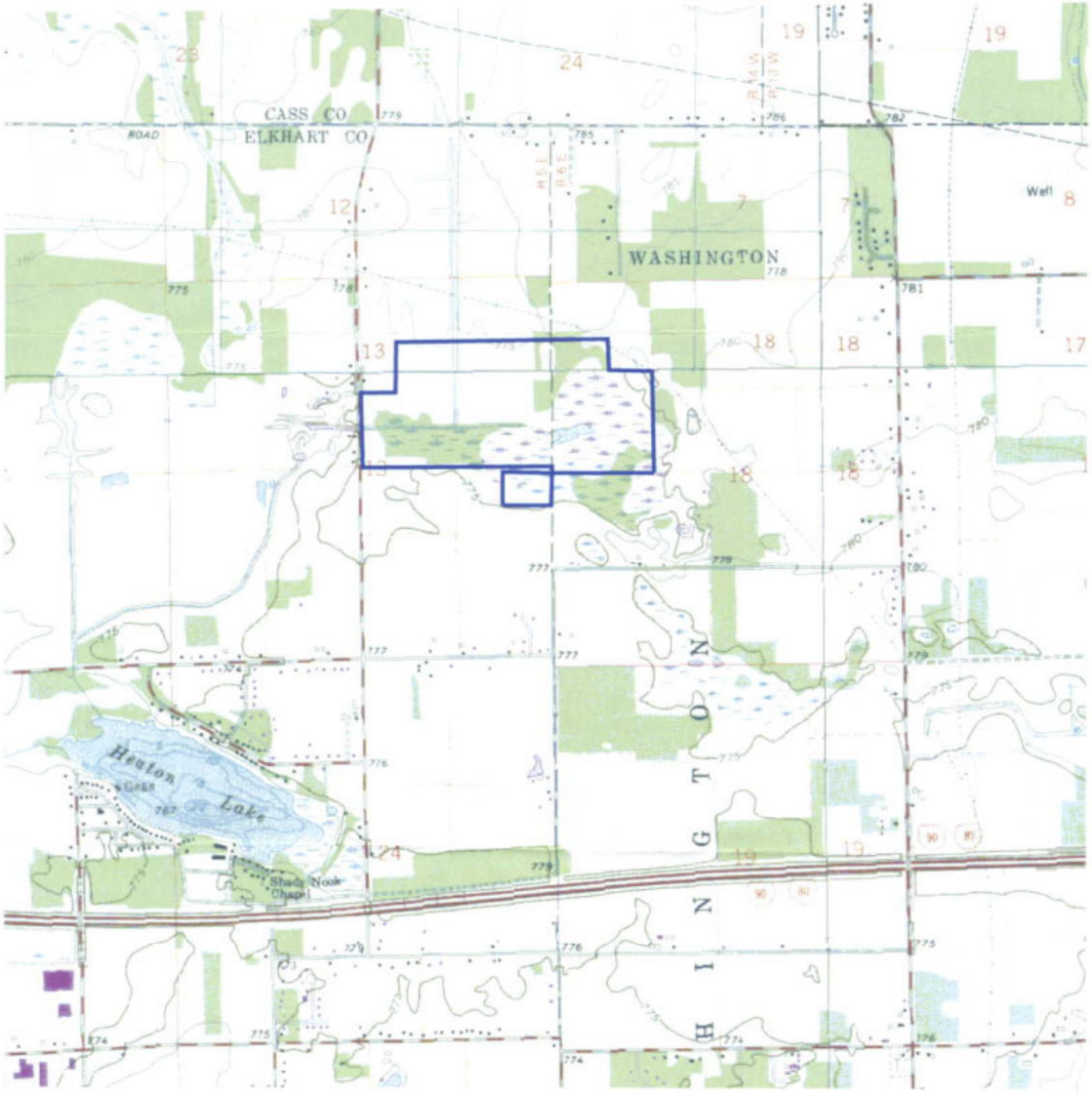
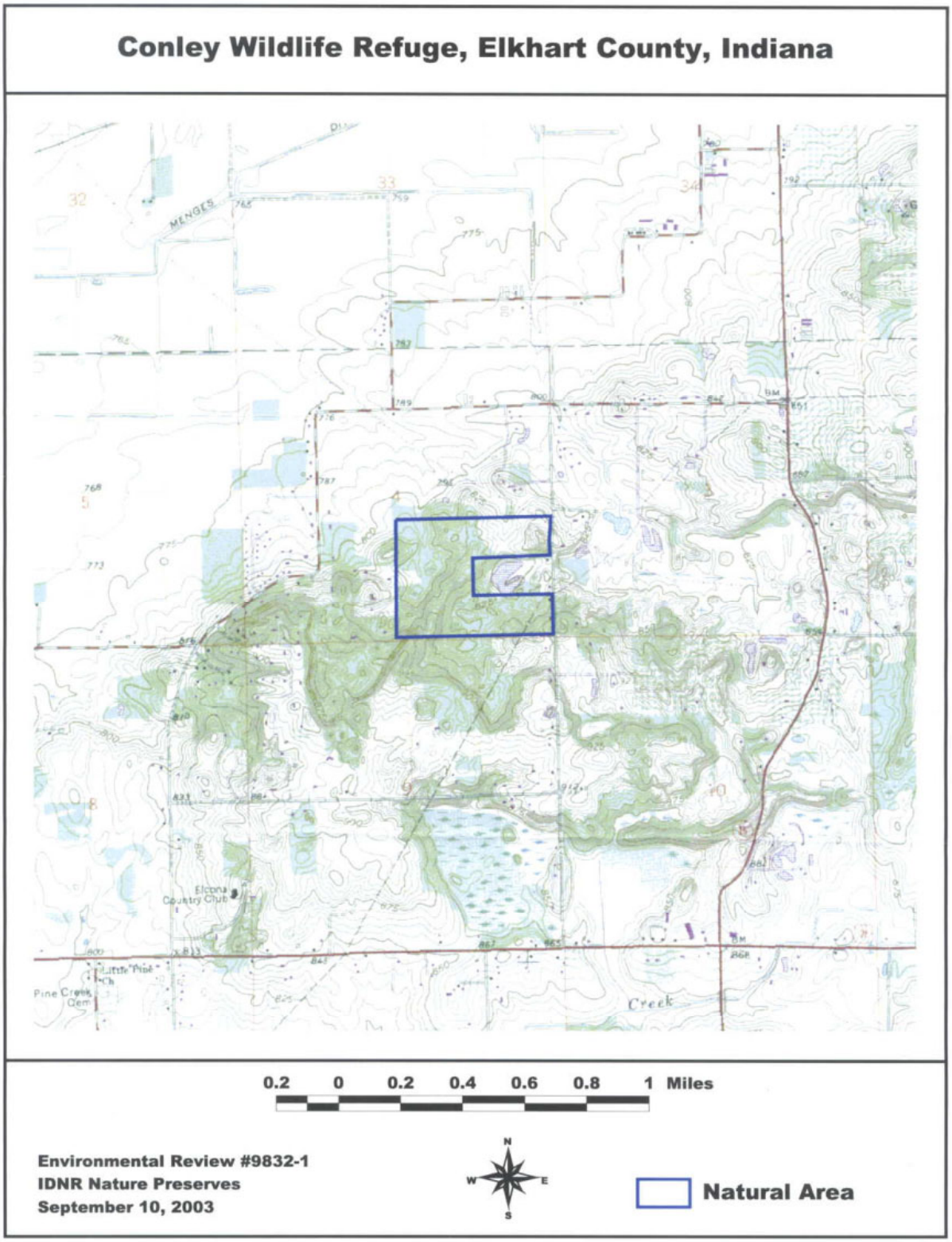
Elkhart Bog Nature Preserve, Elkhart County, Indiana



Environmental Review #9832-1
IDNR Nature Preserves
September 10, 2003


Conley Wildlife Refuge, Elkhart County, Indiana
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Environmental Review #9832-1
IDNR Nature Preserves
September 10, 2003
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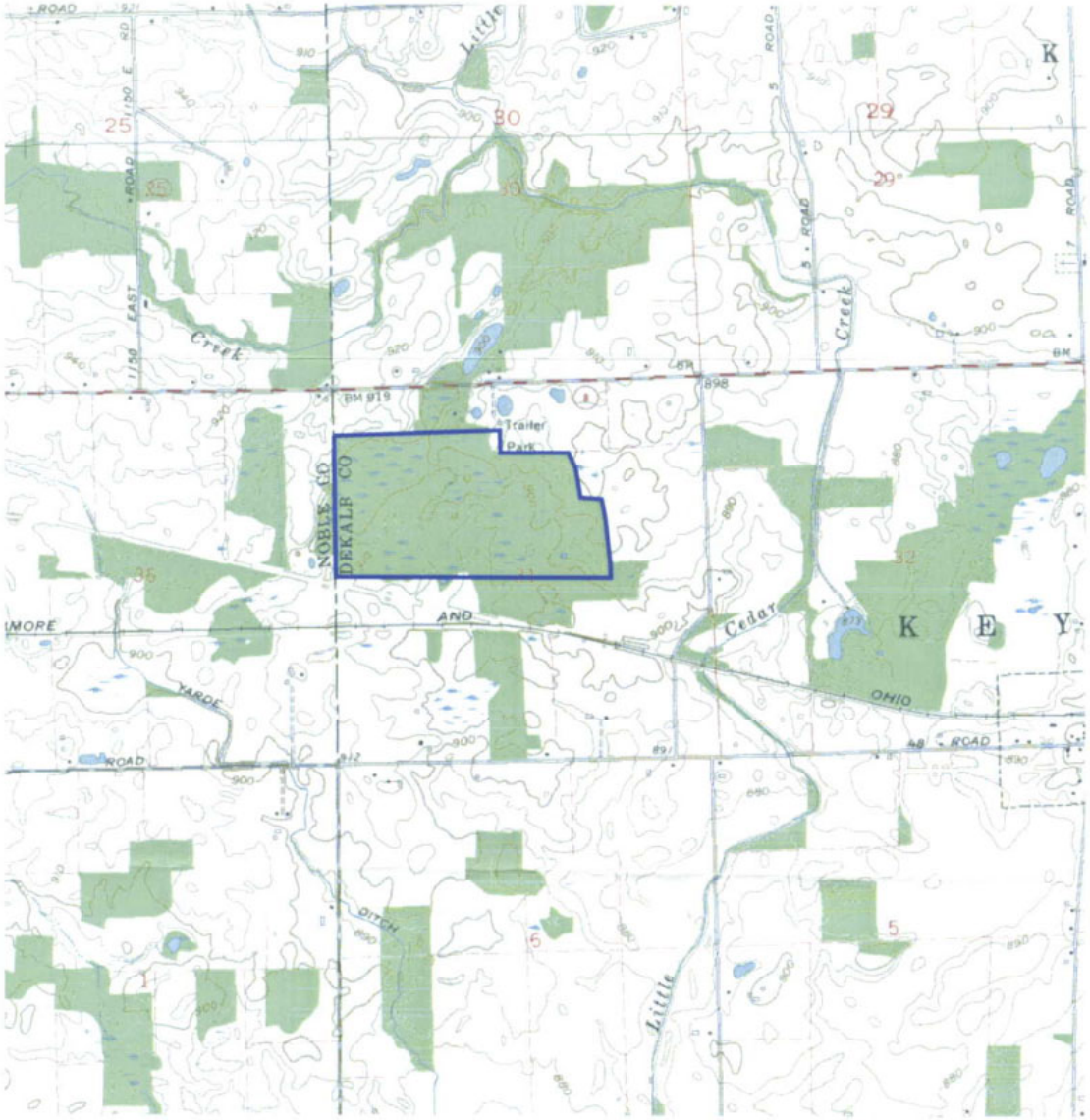
Garrett Woods, Dekalb County, Indiana



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Environmental Review #9832-1
IDNR Nature Preserves
September 10, 2003

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