

April 29, 2004

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

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER  
EVALUATION FOR THE DONALD C. COOK NUCLEAR PLANT LICENSE  
RENEWAL

Dear Mr. Pruitt:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application submitted by Indiana Michigan Power Company (I&M) for the renewal of the operating licenses for Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 (CNP). CNP is located in Berrien County, Michigan, on the southeastern shoreline of Lake Michigan approximately 55 miles east of Chicago, Illinois, and 50 miles west-southwest of Kalamazoo, Michigan. As part of the review of the license renewal application, the NRC is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) under the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, which includes an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including endangered or threatened species and impacts to fish and wildlife. This letter is being submitted under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended.

The proposed action would include the use and continued maintenance of existing plant facilities and transmission lines and would not result in new construction or disturbance or change in operations. The area surrounding the CNP property is characterized by agricultural lands and heavily wooded, rugged sand dunes along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Grand Mere State Park is located about one mile north-northeast of CNP and Warren Dunes State Park is located approximately 3.5 miles south-southwest of the plant.

CNP uses an open-cycle cooling system to dissipate waste heat to the environment. Cooling water is drawn from Lake Michigan through offshore, underwater intake cribs at an approximate water depth of 20 ft. After circulating through the condensers, the cooling water is discharged through two tunnels that end offshore with high-velocity underwater discharge elbows.

For the specific purpose of connecting CNP to the regional transmission system, there is a total of approximately 408 kilometers (255 miles) of transmission line corridors that occupy approximately 1980 hectares (4,900 acres) of land. These transmission line corridors are being evaluated as part of the SEIS process. The transmission line corridors traverse LaPorte, St. Joseph, Elkhart, LaGrange, Noble, DeKalb, and Allen Counties in Indiana; and Berrien, Van Buren, and Cass Counties in Michigan. The corridors pass through land that is primarily

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agricultural and forest land. The enclosed transmission line map shows the transmission system that is being evaluated in the SEIS. Six 345-kilovolt (kV) lines connect from the Unit 1 switchyard and a single 765-kV line connects from the Unit 2 switchyard. The switchyards are shown in the enclosed CNP site layout figure.

To support the SEIS 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 CNP and its associated transmission lines. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments. The anticipated publication date for the draft SEIS is September 2004.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff review of this license renewal application, please contact Mr. Robert Schaaf, Environmental Project Manager, at (301) 415-1312 or by e-mail at [RGS@nrc.gov](mailto:RGS@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director  
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts  
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos.: 50-315 and 50-316

Enclosures: 1. CNP Transmission Line Map  
2. CNP Site Layout

cc w/encls: See next page

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**/RA/**

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director  
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts  
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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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DATE	04/27/04	04/27/04	04/27/04	04/28/04	04/29/04

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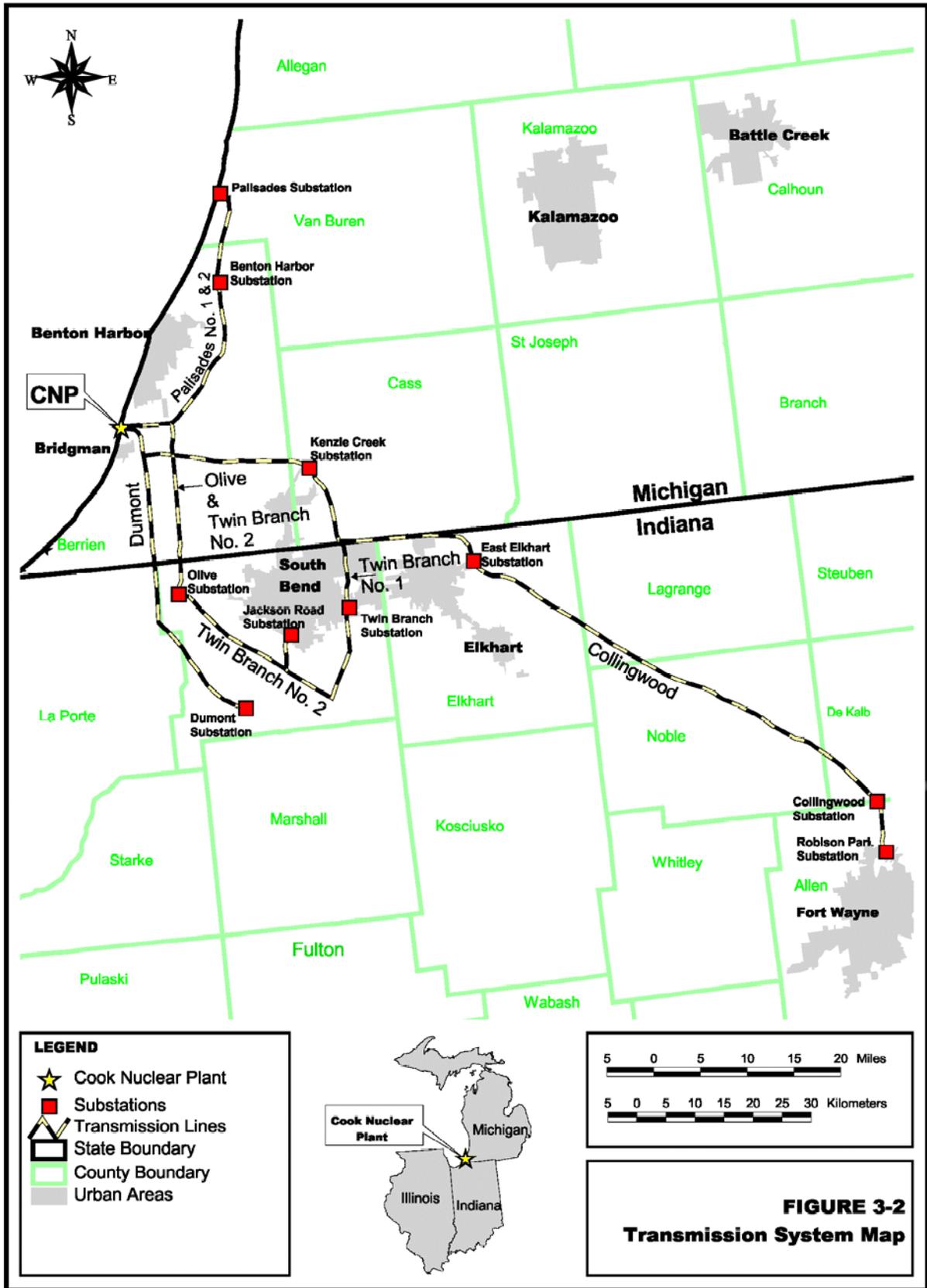
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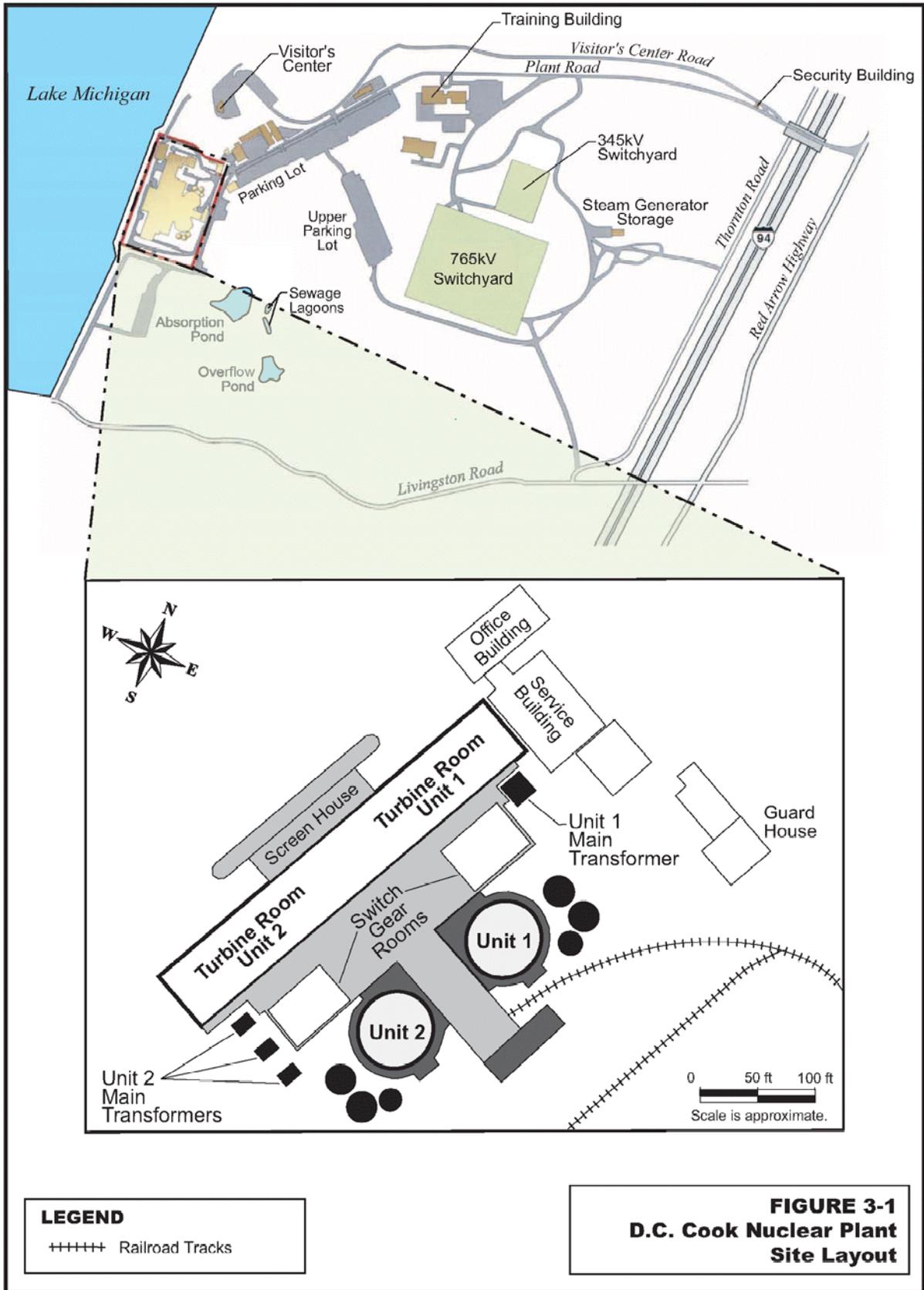
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**FIGURE 3-1**  
**D.C. Cook Nuclear Plant**  
**Site Layout**