

December 29, 2004

Mr. Sam D. Hamilton, Regional Director  
Southeast Regional Office  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
1875 Century Boulevard Northeast, Suite 400  
Atlanta, Georgia 30345

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER  
EVALUATION FOR THE BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNITS 1  
AND 2, LICENSE RENEWAL

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing applications submitted by Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L), now doing business as Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc., for the renewal of the operating licenses for the Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2 (BSEP). BSEP is located in Brunswick County in southeastern North Carolina, near the mouth of the Cape Fear River. As part of the review of the license renewal applications, 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. BSEP is situated on approximately 1,200 acres of land; 130 acres are occupied by generating facilities, support facilities, warehouses, parking areas, construction laydown areas, equipment storage areas, and roads. The remaining acreage consists of woodlands, open fields, wetlands and marshlands. The area immediately surrounding the plant is a mix of agricultural lands, woodlands, swamps, and marshes.

The BSEP circulating water system is a once-through heat dissipation system. Cooling water is drawn from the Cape Fear River by way of a three-mile long intake canal. The circulating water system includes the intake canal, intake structure, condensers, discharge canal, Caswell Beach pumping station, and the discharge pipes that move the heated effluent into the Atlantic Ocean.

BSEP transmission corridors are approximately 220 miles long and occupy 4,000 acres. These transmission line corridors are being evaluated as part of the SEIS process. The corridors pass through low population areas that are primarily forest, farm, and swamp lands. The lines cross numerous U.S. and State highways, the Cape Fear River, and Interstate 40. Four lines in a single 310-foot corridor make a short crossing of the Orton Plantation Waterfowl Impoundment, and the Jacksonville line makes a short crossing of the Holly Shelter Game Land. Corridors that pass through farm lands generally continue to be used as farm land. The transmission line corridors traverse Brunswick, Columbus, Bladen, Robeson, New Hanover, Pender, and Onslow.

counties in North Carolina. The transmission lines and site boundary are identified in Enclosures 1 and 2. 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 BSEP and its associated transmission lines. The NRC has requested the same information and list of species from NOAA Fisheries. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

On January 25-26, 2005, the NRC staff plans to conduct a site audit at the BSEP site. In addition, NRC staff plans to hold two public NEPA scoping meetings on January 27, 2005, at the Southport City Hall, 201 E. Moore Street, Southport, North Carolina 28461. Your staff is invited to attend both the site audit and the public meetings. The NRC staff will also forward to your office a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments.

If you have any questions concerning BSEP, the license renewal application, or other aspects of this project, please contact Richard L. Emch, Jr., Senior Project Manager, at 301-415-1590 or by e-mail at [rle@nrc.gov](mailto:rle@nrc.gov).

Sincerely,

***/RA/***

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

Docket Nos.: 50-324 and 50-325

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/encls.: See next page

counties in North Carolina. The transmission lines and site boundary are identified in Enclosures 1 and 2. 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 BSEP and its associated transmission lines. The NRC has requested the same information and list of species from NOAA Fisheries. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

On January 25-26, 2005, the NRC staff plans to conduct a site audit at the BSEP site. In addition, NRC staff plans to hold two public NEPA scoping meetings on January 27, 2005, at the Southport City Hall, 201 E. Moore Street, Southport, North Carolina 28461. Your staff is invited to attend both the site audit and the public meetings. The NRC staff will also forward to your office a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments.

If you have any questions concerning BSEP, the license renewal application, or other aspects of this project, please contact Richard L. Emch, Jr., Senior Project Manager, at 301-415-1590 or by e-mail at rle@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

**/RA/**

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

Docket Nos.: 50-324 and 50-325

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/encls.: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

D. Matthews/F. Gillespie	P.T. Kuo	R. Emch	A. Kugler
C. Guerrero	S. Hernandez	J. Wilson	S. K. Mitra
B. Mozafari	OGC	E. DiPaolo, SRI	J. Austin, RI
P. Fredrickson, RII	M. Parkhurst (PNNL)	RLEP R/F	

Adams accession no.: **ML043650001**

Document name: E:\Filenet\ML043650001.wpd

OFFICE	RLEP:LA	RLEP:GE	RLEP:GS	RLEP:PM	RLEP:SC	RLEP:PD
NAME	LJenkins	SHernandez	CGuerrero	REmch	AKugler	PTKuo (SSLee for)
DATE	12/27/04	12/28/04	12/28/04	12/28/04	12/28/04	12/29/04

OFFICIAL OFFICE COPY

Mr. Steven R. Carr  
Associate General Counsel - Legal  
Department  
Progress Energy Service Company, LLC  
Post Office Box 1551  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-1551

Mr. David R. Sandifer, Chairperson  
Brunswick County Board of Commissioners  
Post Office Box 249  
Bolivia, North Carolina 28422

Resident Inspector  
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
8470 River Road  
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Mr. John H. O'Neill, Jr.  
Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge  
2300 N Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037-1128

Ms. Beverly Hall, Section Chief  
Radiation Protection Section,  
Division of Natural Resources  
N.C. Department of Environment  
and Natural Resources  
3825 Barrett Dr.  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27609-7721

Mr. David H. Hinds  
Plant General Manager  
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant  
Carolina Power & Light Company  
Post Office Box 10429  
Southport, North Carolina 28461-0429

Public Service Commission  
State of South Carolina  
Post Office Drawer 11649  
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Ms. Margaret A. Force  
Assistant Attorney General  
State of North Carolina  
Post Office Box 629  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Mr. Robert P. Gruber  
Executive Director

Public Staff - NCUC  
4326 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-4326

Mr. T. P. Cleary  
Director - Site Operations  
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant  
Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc.  
Post Office Box 10429  
Southport, North Carolina 28461-0429

Mr. Norman R. Holden, Mayor  
City of Southport  
201 East Moore Street  
Southport, North Carolina 28461

Mr. Warren Lee  
Emergency Management Director  
New Hanover County Department of  
Emergency Management  
Post Office Box 1525  
Wilmington, North Carolina 28402-1525

Mr. Chris L. Burton, Manager  
Performance Evaluation and  
Regulatory Affairs PEB 7  
Progress Energy  
Post Office Box 1551  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602-1551

Mr. Edward T. O'Neill  
Manager - Support Services  
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant  
Carolina Power & Light Company  
Post Office Box 10429  
Southport, North Carolina 28461

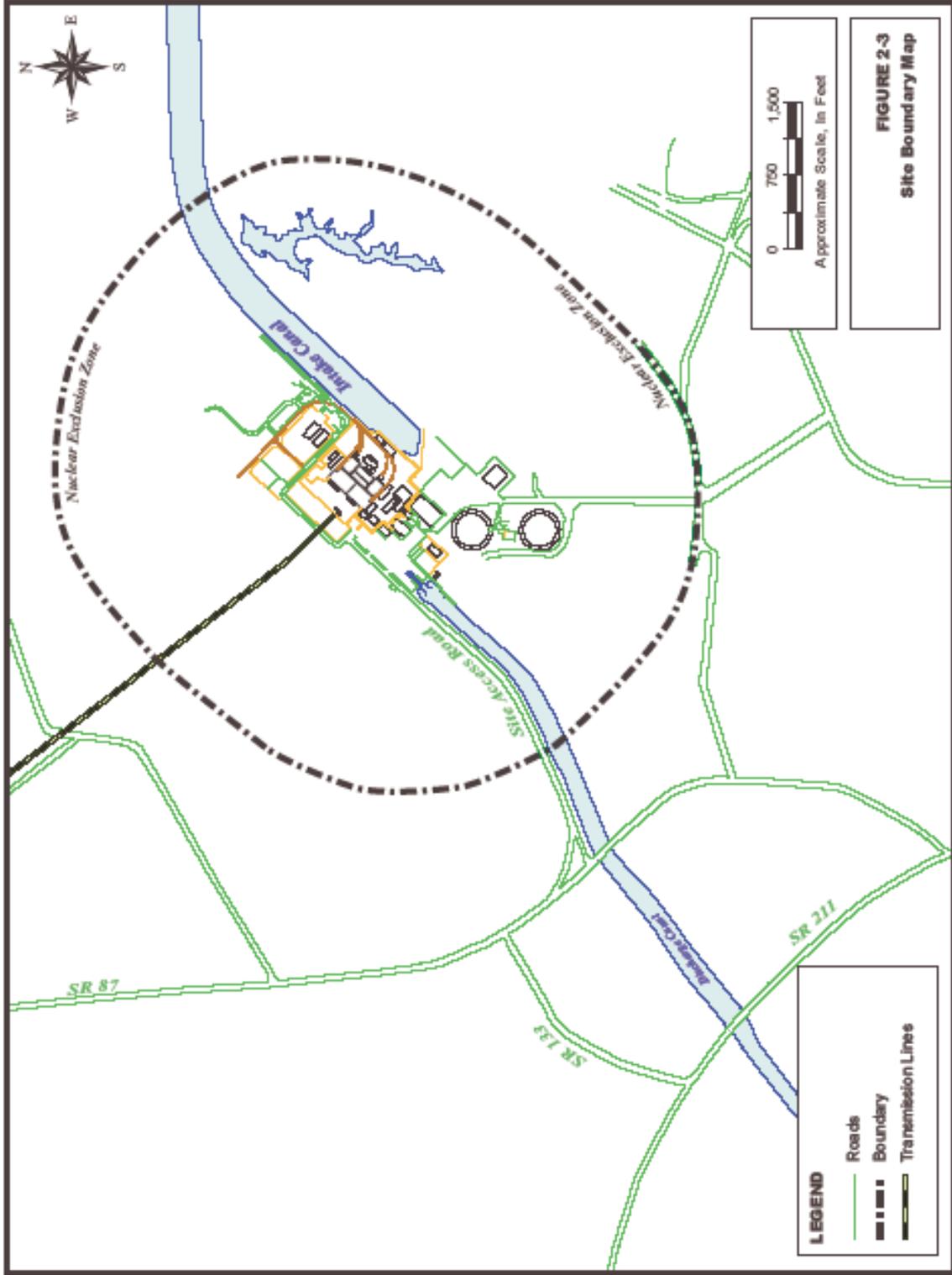
Allen K. Brittain  
Superintendent, Security  
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant  
Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc.  
P.O. Box 10429  
Southport, North Carolina 28461-0429

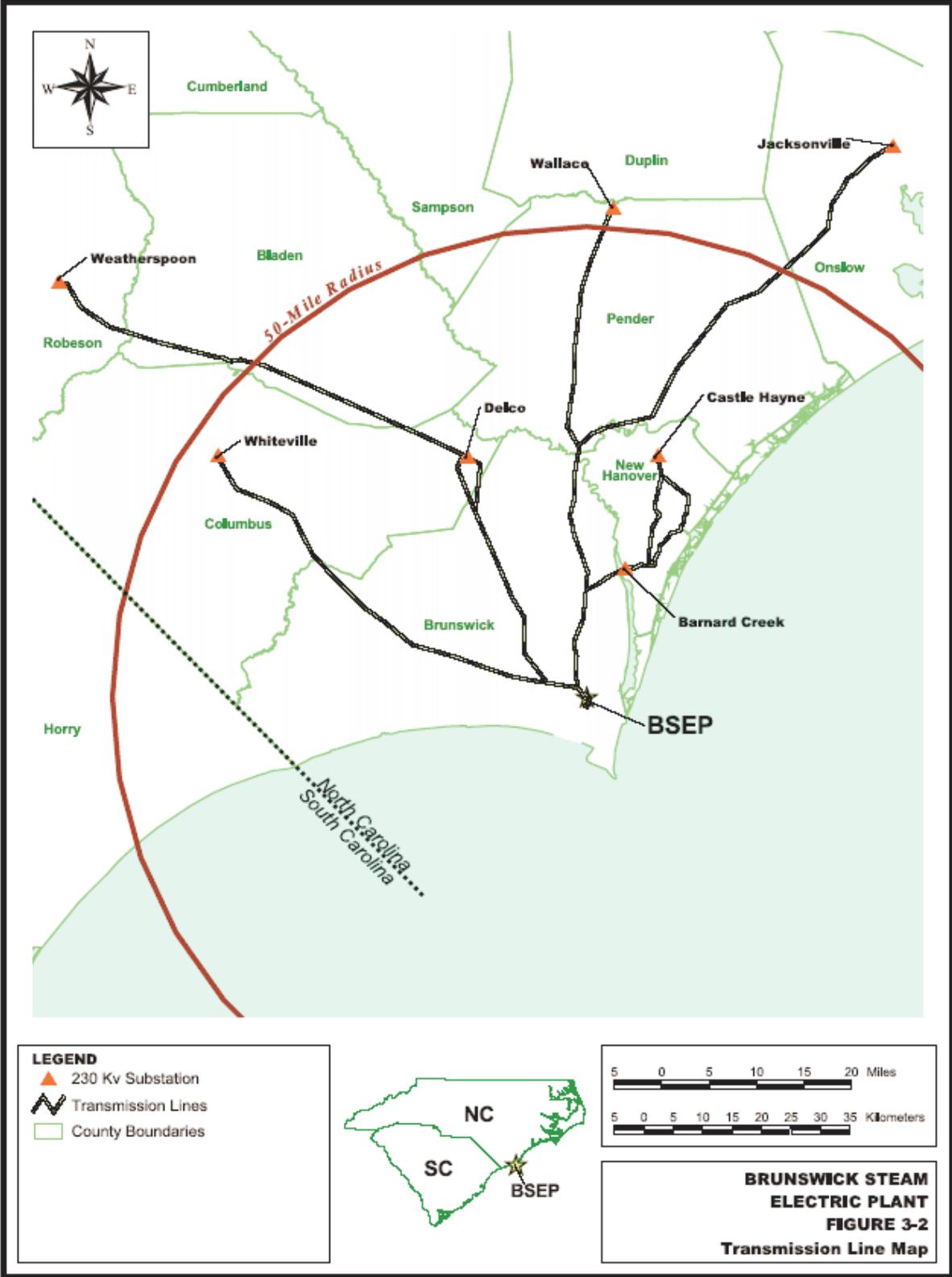
Mr. Michael Heath  
Brunswick Steam Electric Plant  
P.O. Box 10429  
Southport, North Carolina 28461-0429

Talmage B. Clements  
Manager - License Renewal  
Progress Energy  
P. O. Box 1551  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27602

Mr. Fred Emerson  
Nuclear Energy Institute  
1776 I Street, NW, Suite 400  
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Ms. Ilene Brown  
NCUW  
William Randall Library  
601 S. College Rd.  
Wilmington, NC 28403-5616

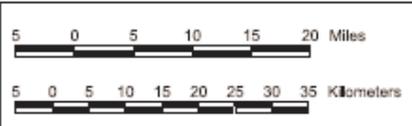




**50-Mile Radius**

**LEGEND**

-  230 Kv Substation
-  Transmission Lines
-  County Boundaries



**BRUNSWICK STEAM  
ELECTRIC PLANT  
FIGURE 3-2  
Transmission Line Map**