

December 29, 2004

Ms. Patricia A. Kurkul, Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
Northeast Regional Office
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 09130-2298

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 Ms. Kurkul:

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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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
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

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Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2

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Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2

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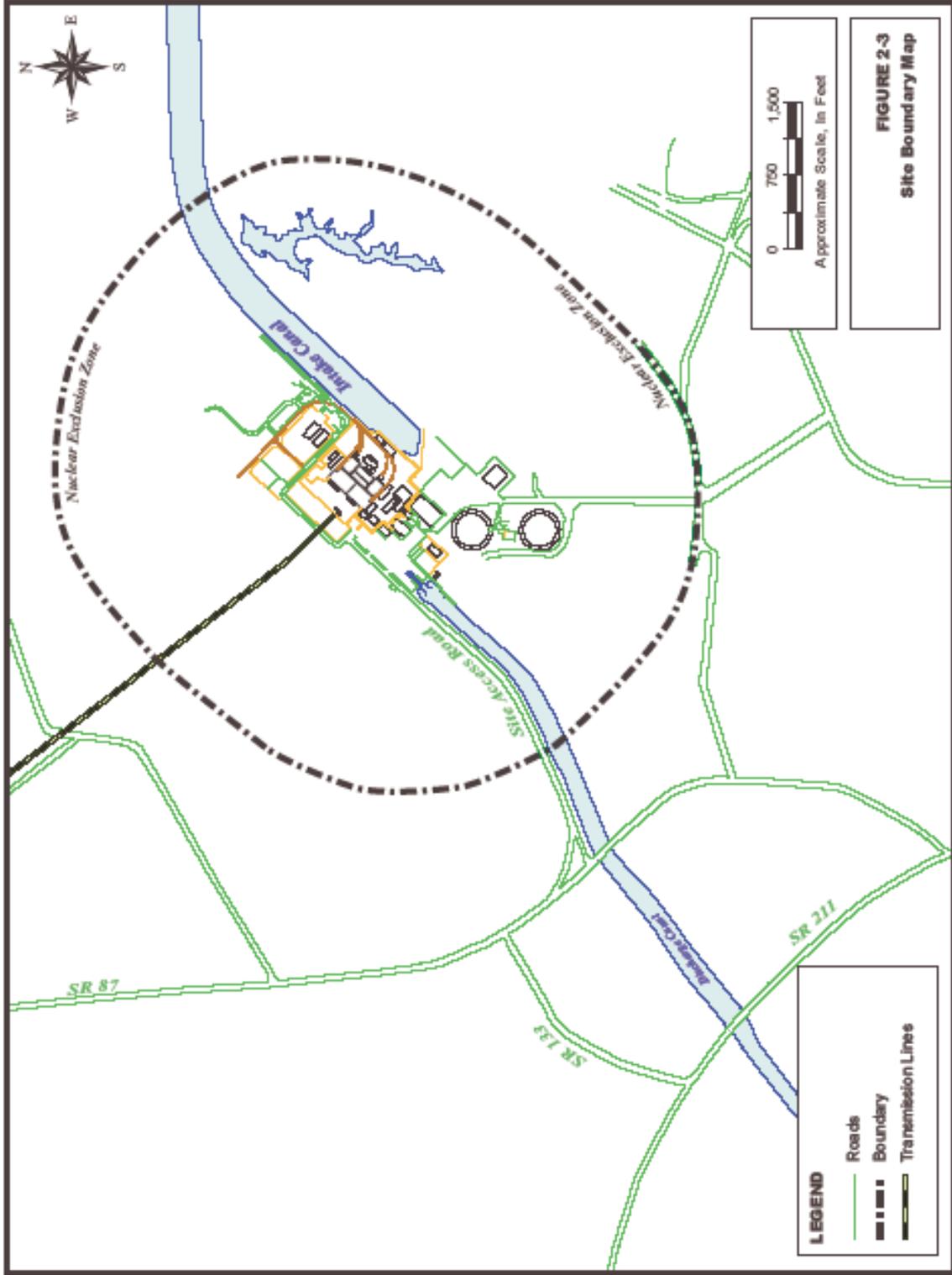
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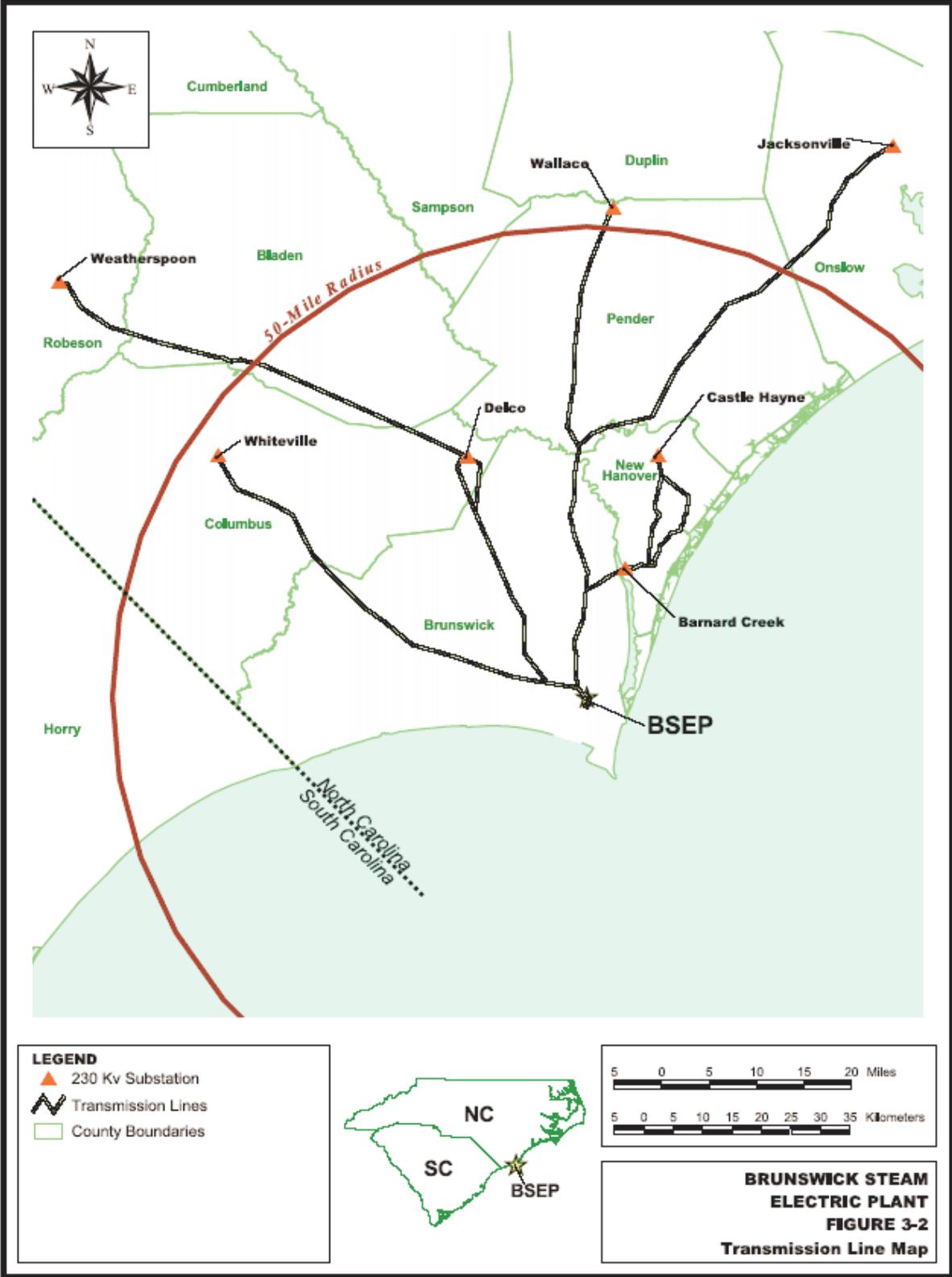
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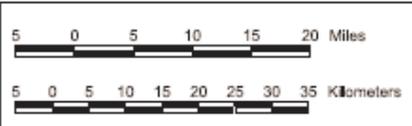
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LEGEND

-  230 Kv Substation
-  Transmission Lines
-  County Boundaries



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