

December 30, 2004

Dr. Jeffrey Crow
Deputy Secretary of Archives and History
State Historic Preservation Officer
4610 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-4610

SUBJECT: BRUNSWICK STEAM ELECTRIC PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2 LICENSE
RENEWAL REVIEW

Dear Mr. Crow:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing applications to renew the operating licenses for Brunswick Steam Electric Plant, Units 1 and 2 (BSEP), which is located in Brunswick County in southeastern North Carolina, near the mouth of the Cape Fear River. The city limits of the nearest major metropolitan area, Wilmington, North Carolina, are approximately 15 miles north of the BSEP site. Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, a major regional tourist destination, lies approximately 50 miles to the southwest. BSEP is operated by Carolina Power & Light Company (CP&L), now doing business as Progress Energy Carolinas, Inc. The applications for renewal were submitted by CP&L on October 20, 2004, pursuant to NRC requirements at Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 54 (10 CFR Part 54). The NRC has established that, as part of the staff review of any nuclear power plant license renewal action, a site-specific Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437, will be prepared under the provisions of 10 CFR Part 51, the NRC regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). In accordance with 36 CFR 800.8, the SEIS will include analyses of potential impacts to historic and archaeological resources.

In the context of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the NRC staff has determined that the area of potential effect (APE) for a license renewal action is the area at the power plant site and its immediate environs that may be impacted by post-license renewal land-disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities associated with the proposed action. The APE may extend beyond the immediate environs in those instances where post-license renewal land-disturbing operations or projected refurbishment activities, specifically related to license renewal, may potentially have an effect on known or proposed historic sites. This determination is made irrespective of ownership or control of the lands of interest.

While preparing its application, CP&L contacted your office by letter dated May 12, 2003. In that letter, CP&L stated there are no plans to significantly alter current operations over the license renewal period. CP&L further stated that no expansion of existing facilities is planned, and no major structural modifications have been identified for the purpose of supporting license renewal. In addition, no land-disturbing activities are anticipated beyond those required for routine maintenance and repairs.

J. Crow

-2-

On January 27, 2005, the NRC will conduct two public NEPA scoping meetings at the Southport City Hall 201 E. Moore Street, Southport, North Carolina 28461. You and your staff are invited to attend. 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 2005. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Mr. Richard L. Emch, Jr., Senior Project Manager at 301-415-1590 or 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.: 50-325 and 50-324

Enclosures: As stated

cc w/encl.: See next page

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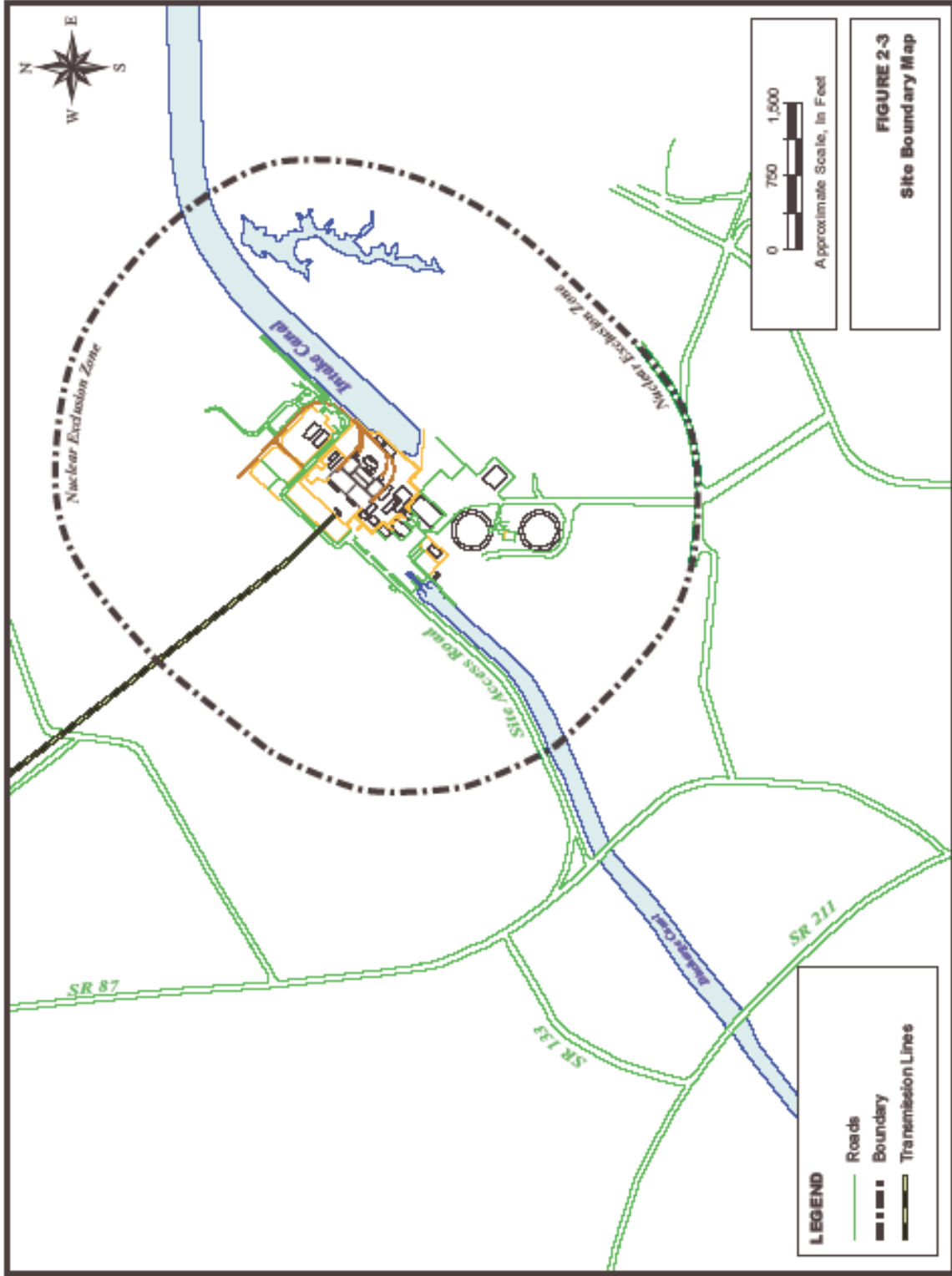
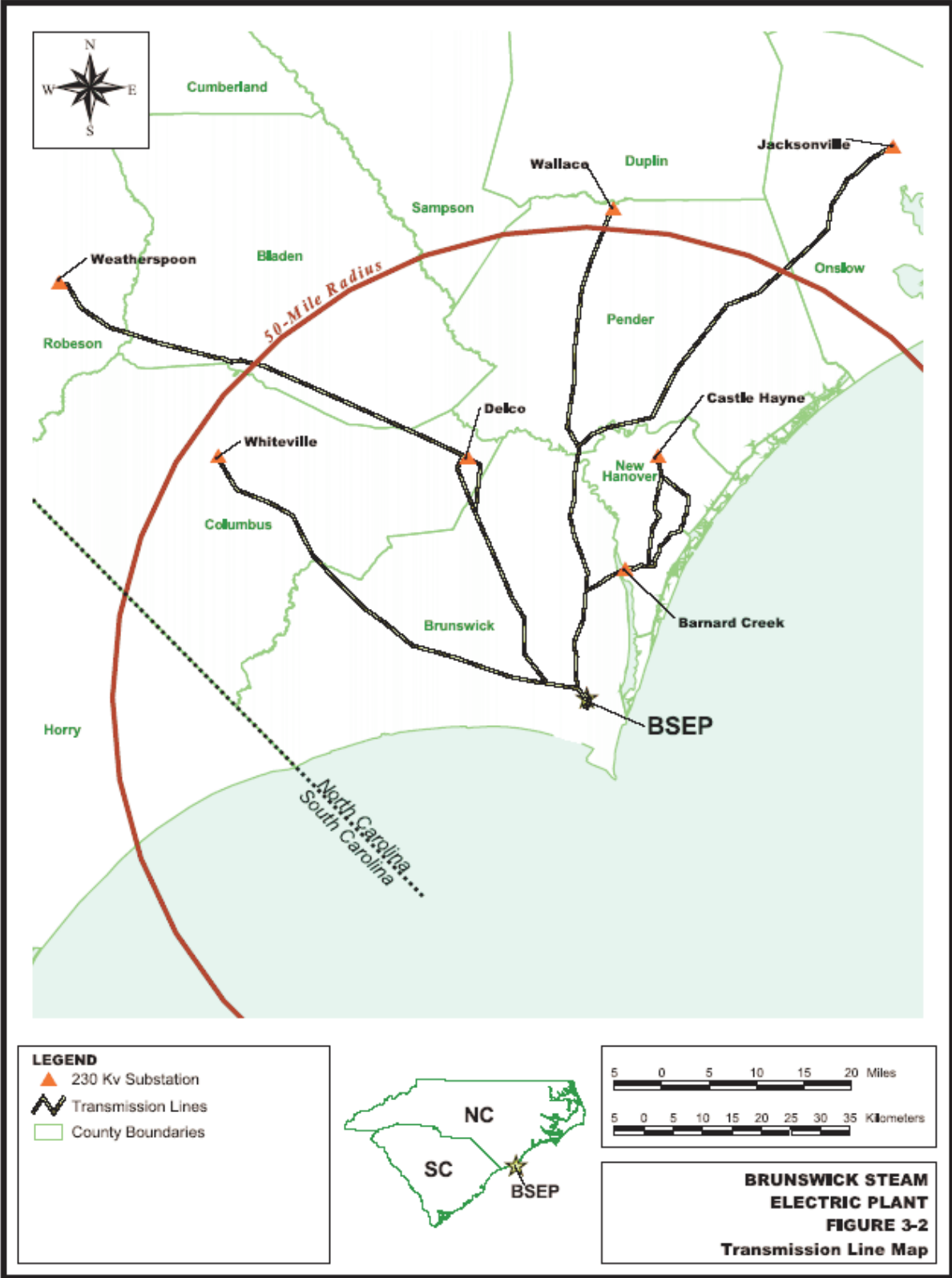


FIGURE 2-3
Site Boundary Map



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