

April 25, 2006

Mr. Peter Colosi
Habitat Conservation Coordinator
National Marine Fisheries Service
One Blackburn Drive
Glouster, MA 01930

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR A LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES AND ESSENTIAL FISH
HABITAT WITHIN THE AREA UNDER EVALUATION FOR THE PILGRIM
NUCLEAR POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Colosi:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application submitted by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy) for the renewal of the operating license for Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station (Pilgrim). Pilgrim is located on the western shore of Cape Cod Bay in the Town of Plymouth, Plymouth County, Massachusetts. It is 38 miles southeast of Boston, Massachusetts, and 44 miles east of Providence, Rhode Island. 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. The SEIS includes an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including endangered or threatened species and impacts to marine resources and habitat. This letter is being submitted under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended, and the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996.

The proposed action is to renew the facility operating license for Pilgrim for an additional 20 years beyond the expiration of the current operating license. The proposed action would include the use and continued maintenance of existing plant facilities and transmission lines. The Pilgrim industrial facility covers approximately 140 acres. Approximately 1,500 acres is owned by Entergy and is held in a forest management trust. Enclosures 1 and 2 provide a general overview of the site location and site layout.

Pilgrim is equipped with a once-through heat dissipation system that withdraws cooling water from and discharges it to Cape Cod Bay. Seawater for cooling and service water is withdrawn from Cape Cod Bay via an embayment formed by two breakwaters. After circulating through the condensers, cooling water is returned to Cape Cod Bay via a discharge channel immediately adjacent to the intake embayment.

Approximately 7.2 miles of transmission line corridor occupying approximately 260 acres connect Pilgrim to the regional transmission system. Two transmission lines were built to connect Pilgrim to the transmission system and are within the scope of review for this action. Both lines run approximately five miles on shared right-of-way from the plant substation to the Jordan Road Tap. One line continues beyond the Jordan Road Tap for approximately 2.2

additional miles to the Snake Hill Road Tap. Both lines operate at 345 kilovolts. The transmission line corridor is approximately 300 feet wide and passes through rolling land that is primarily forested. The transmission line corridor traverses a portion of Plymouth County, Massachusetts. Enclosure 3 shows the transmission system of interest.

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 Pilgrim and its associated transmission line right-of-way. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act. Also, in support of the SEIS preparation and to ensure compliance with Section 305 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, the NRC requests a list of essential fish habitat that has been designated in the vicinity of the Pilgrim site and its associated transmission line corridors.

The NRC staff plans to conduct a site audit on May 1-5, 2006. The staff plans to hold two public NEPA scoping meetings on May 17, 2006, at the Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor Ballroom, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts. You and your staff are invited to attend both the site audit and public meetings. Your office will also receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments. The anticipated publication date for the draft SEIS is December 2006.

If you have any questions regarding the NRC staff review of this license renewal application, please contact the NRC Environmental Project Manager, Ms. Alicia Williamson, at 301-415-1878 or arw1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,
/RA/
Rani Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

Enclosures:

1. Site Location
2. Site Layout
3. Transmission Map

cc w/encls. See next page

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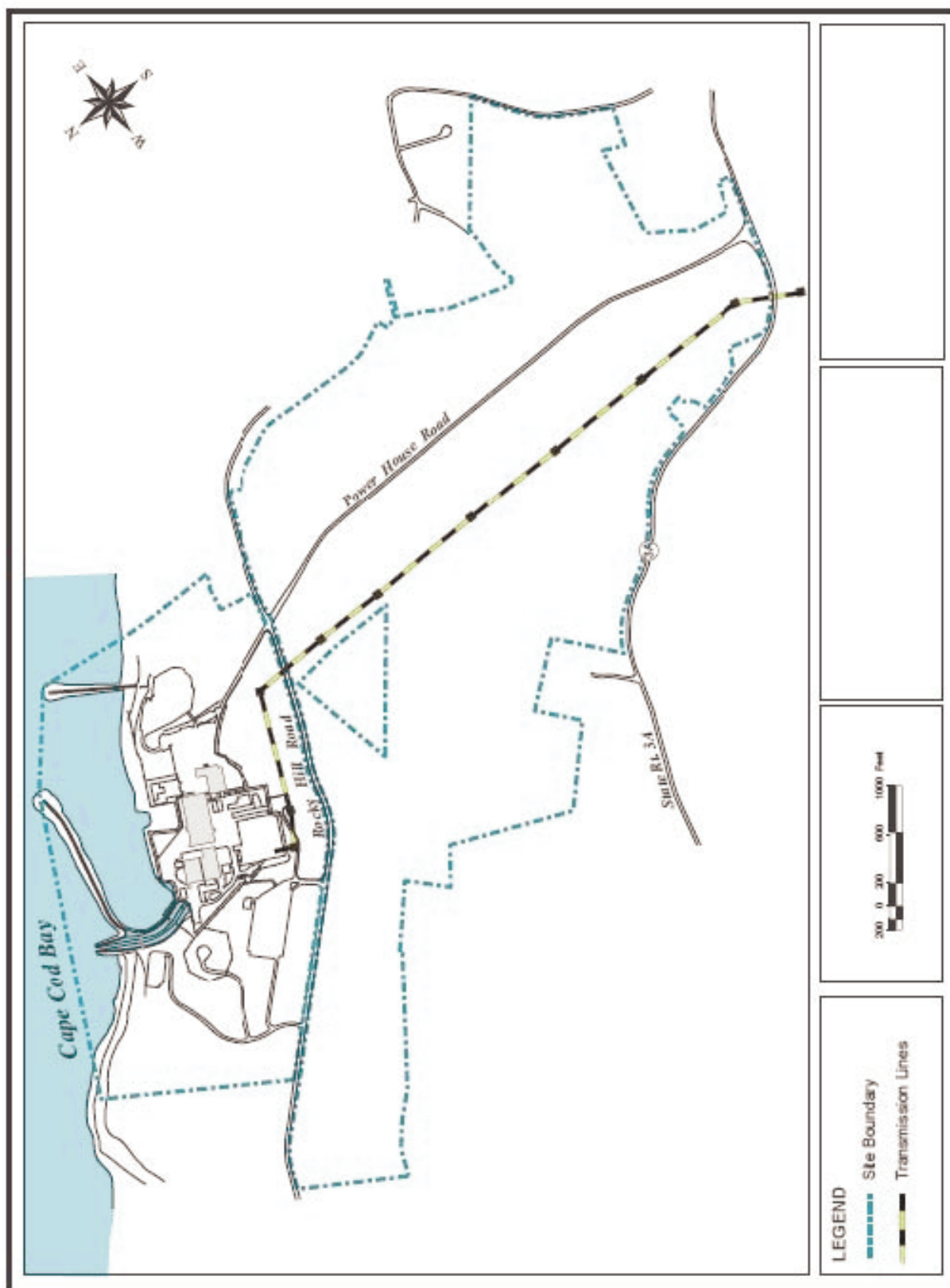
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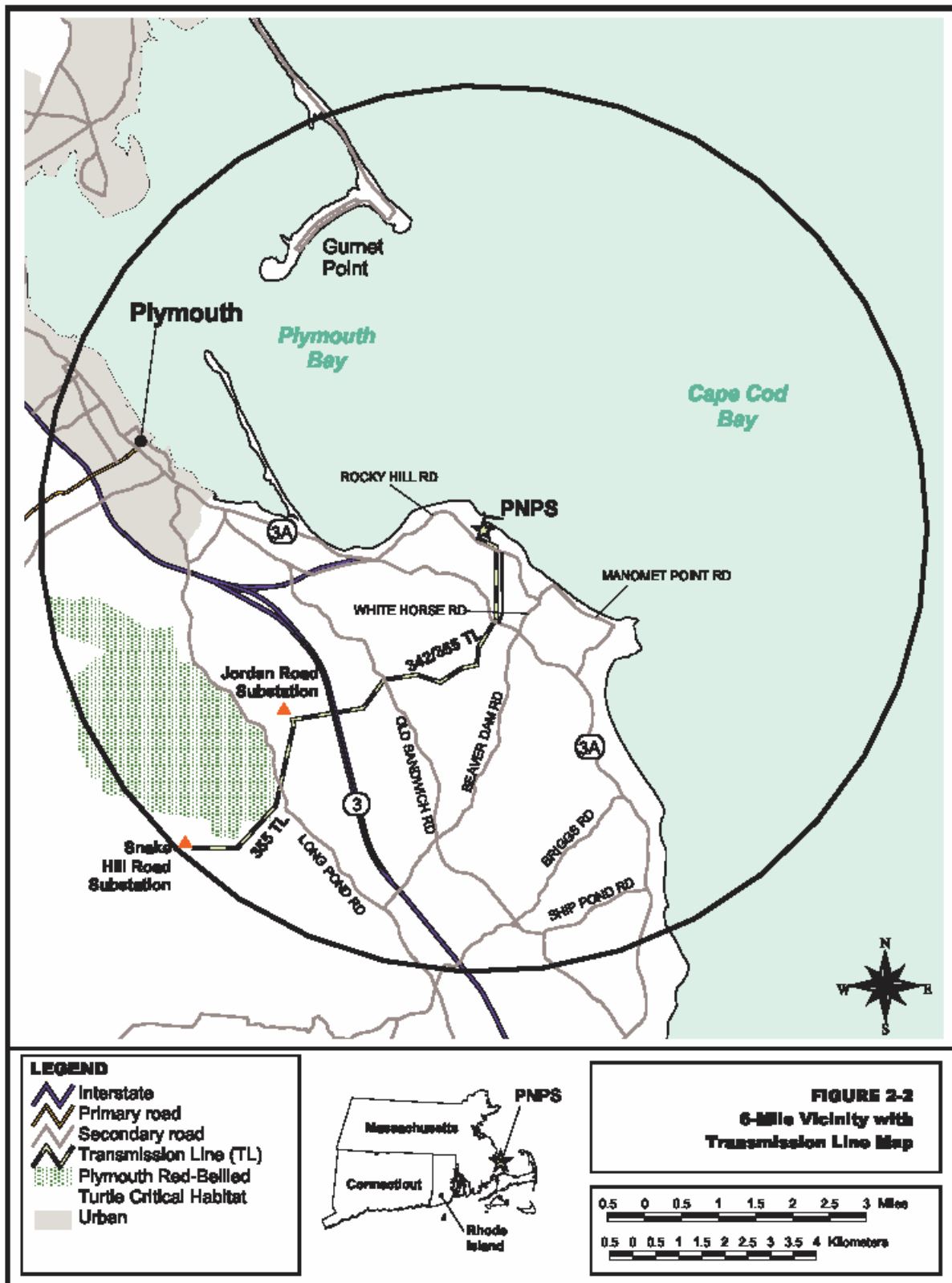
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Letter to: Peter Colosi from Rani Franovich, dated: April 25, 2006

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Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

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Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

-3-

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