April 21, 2006

Mr. Michael Bowland
Director of Natural Resources
Mashantucket Tribal Council Office
P.O. Box 3202
Mashantucket, CT 06338

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR COMMENTS REGARDING THE PILGRIM NUCLEAR POWER STATION LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Bowland:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is seeking input for its environmental review of an application from Entergy Nuclear Operations (Entergy), Inc. for the renewal of the operating license for the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station, located on the western shore of Cape Cod Bay in the Town of Plymouth, Plymouth County, Massachusetts. Pilgrim is in close proximity to lands that may be of interest to the Mashantucket Tribal Council Office. As described below, the NRC process includes an opportunity for public and inter-governmental participation in the environmental review. We want to ensure that you are aware of our efforts and, pursuant to Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51.28(b) (10 CFR 51.28(b)), the NRC invites the Mashantucket Tribal Council Office to provide input to the scoping process relating to the NRC's environmental review of the application. In addition, as outlined in 36 CFR 800.8, the NRC plans to coordinate compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 through the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

Under NRC regulations, the original operating license for a nuclear power plant is issued for 40 years. The license may be renewed for up to an additional 20 years, if NRC requirements are met. The current operating license for Pilgrim will expire on June 8, 2012. Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. submitted its application for renewal of the Pilgrim operating license on January 25, 2006.

The NRC is gathering information for a Pilgrim site-specific supplement to its "Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants" (GEIS), NUREG-1437. The supplement will contain the results of the review of the environmental impacts on the area surrounding the Pilgrim site that are related to terrestrial ecology, aquatic ecology, hydrology, cultural resources, and socioeconomic issues (among others) and will contain a recommendation regarding the environmental acceptability of the license renewal action. Enclosures 1 and 2 provide a general overview of the site location and site layout.

The NRC will hold two public scoping meetings for the Pilgrim license renewal supplement to the GEIS on May 17, 2006, at the Radisson Hotel Plymouth Harbor Ballroom, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts 02360. There will be two sessions to accommodate interested parties. The first session will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second session will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the meeting, and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. Additionally, the NRC staff will host informal discussions one hour before the start of each session. To be considered, comments must be provided either at the transcribed public meetings or in writing. No formal comments on the proposed scope of the supplement to the GEIS will be accepted during informal discussions.

The license renewal application is publicly available at the NRC Public Document Room (PDR), located at One White Flint North, 11555 Rockville Pike, (first floor) Rockville, Maryland, 20852, or from the NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS). The ADAMS Public Electronic Reading Room is accessible at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. The accession number for the license renewal application is ML060300024. Persons who do not have access to ADAMS, or who encounter problems accessing the documents located in ADAMS, should contact the NRC Public Document Room Reference staff at 1-800-397-4209, 301-415-4737, or by e-mail at pdr@nrc.gov.

The Pilgrim license renewal application is also available on the Internet at www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/pilgrim.html. In addition, the Plymouth Public Library located at 132 South Street, Plymouth, MA 02360, the Duxbury Free Library located at 77 Alden Street, Duxbury, MA 02332, and the Kingston Public Library located at 6 Green Street, Kingston, MA 02364, have agreed to make the application available for public inspection.

The GEIS, which assesses the scope and impact of environmental effects that would be associated with license renewal at any nuclear power plant site, can also be found on the NRC's website or at the NRC's PDR.

Please submit any comments that the Mashantucket Tribal Council Office may have to offer on the scope of the environmental review by June 16, 2006. Written comments should be submitted by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop T-6D59, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C. 20555-0001. Electronic comments may be submitted to the NRC by e-mail at PilgrimEIS@nrc.gov. At the conclusion of the scoping process, the NRC staff will prepare a summary of the significant issues identified and the conclusions reached, and a copy will be mailed to you.

The NRC will issue the draft supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for public comment (anticipated publication date December 2006), and will hold another set of public meetings in the site vicinity to solicit comments on the draft. A copy of the draft SEIS will be sent to you for your review and comment. After consideration of public comments received on the draft, the NRC will prepare a final SEIS. The issuance of a final SEIS for Pilgrim is planned for July 2007. If you need additional information regarding the environmental review process, please contact Ms. Alicia Williamson, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-1878 or by e-mail at ARW1@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA Robert G. Schaaf For/

Rani L. Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-293

cc w/encls.: See next page

Enclosures:
1. General Overview
2. Site Layout

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Sincerely,

/RA Robert G. Schaaf For/

Rani L. Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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Enclosures:
1. General Overview
2. Site Layout

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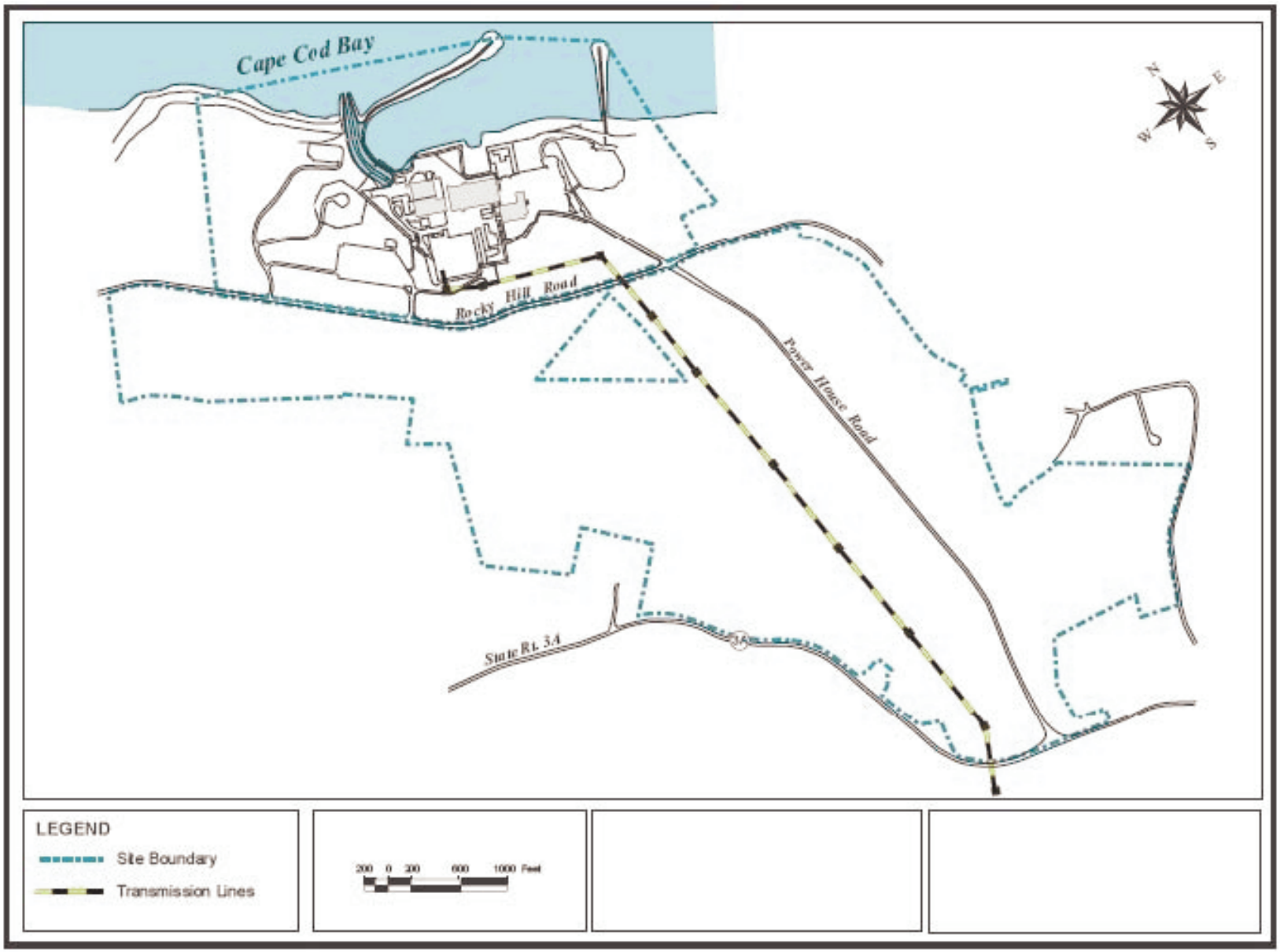
Enclosure 1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LEGEND
Site Boundary
Transmission Lines
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Enclosure 2

Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station

cc:

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King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Senior Resident Inspector
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station
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Plymouth, MA 02360

Chairman, Board of Selectmen
11 Lincoln Street
Plymouth, MA 02360

Chairman
Nuclear Matters Committee
Town Hall
11 Lincoln Street
Plymouth, MA 02360

Chairman, Duxbury Board of Selectmen
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878 Tremont Street
Duxbury, MA 02332

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Massachusetts Department of
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One Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108

Office of the Attorney General
One Ashburton Place
20th Floor
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Director, Radiation Control Program
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Offices of Health and
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174 Portland Street
Boston, MA 02114

Secretary of Public Safety
Executive Office of Public Safety
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Director, Massachusetts Emergency
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Duxbury Free Library
Attn: Mr. David Murphy
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Duxbury, MA 02332

Kingston Public Library
6 Green Street
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ATTN: Reference Librarian

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