

April 15, 2008

Ms. Chris Firestone
Native Plant Program Manager
Bureau of Forestry (Plant Program)
Forestry Advisory Services
Pennsylvania Department of Conservation
and Natural Resources
P.O. Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105-1673

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF STATE-PROTECTED SPECIES AND IMPORTANT
HABITATS WITHIN THE AREA UNDER EVALUATION FOR THE THREE MILE
ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
REVIEW

Dear Ms. Firestone:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) is reviewing an application submitted by AmerGen Energy Company, LLC (AmerGen), for the renewal of the operating license for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, Unit 1 (TMI-1). TMI-1 is located on Three Mile Island, which is situated in the Susquehanna River, in Londonderry Township of Dauphin County, Pennsylvania, about 2.5 miles north of the southern tip of Dauphin County. As part of the review of the license renewal application (LRA), the NRC is preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) under the provisions of Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* Part 51 (10 CFR Part 51), the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. The SEIS includes an analysis of pertinent environmental issues, including endangered or threatened species and impacts to fish and wildlife.

AmerGen is requesting renewal of its operating license for TMI-1 for a period of 20 years beyond the expiration of the current license term of April 2014. The proposed action would include the use and continued maintenance of existing plant facilities and transmission lines. For the purpose of license renewal, AmerGen plans to replace the TMI-1 steam generators, and estimates that the total area disturbed by construction, decontamination, and laydown activities would be less than 10 acres, all of which would be previously disturbed property within the bounds of the TMI-1 flood protection dike.

The TMI-1 site encompasses several properties that total approximately 440 acres, including: the physical plant location on 200 acres of the 370-acre Three Mile Island; St. John's Island and Evergreen Island (also referred to as "Sand Beach Island"), together totaling 31 acres; a 6.4-acre section of Shelley Island, which is part of the western half of the TMI-1 Exclusion Area; and a 32-acre strip of land east of Three Mile Island along the eastern shore of the Susquehanna River; please see the enclosed site boundary map. The TMI-1 site is surrounded by fencing and contains few areas of undeveloped or undisturbed land; undeveloped land on Three Mile Island lies south of TMI-1 facilities. The majority of this land lies under the ten-year flood level, and contains wetlands and fallow field areas surrounded by a woodland buffer. Riparian buffer areas are intact around the perimeter of the island, although forested riparian areas only occur on the southern part of the island.

Four 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission lines totaling 5.6 miles of corridor and approximately 142 acres connect TMI-1 to the regional transmission system; please see the enclosed TMI-1 transmission system map. Two of these lines connect the plant with the substation at Middletown Junction, east of the Susquehanna River; each of these lines extends 1.5 miles. A third line extends for 4.1 miles to the west side of the Susquehanna River, where it connects to a 230-kV line terminating into the substation near Jackson – this line crosses the river twice. The fourth line extends 0.7 miles east across the Susquehanna River to the TMI-1 500-kV substation.

To support the SEIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests information on state-listed, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of TMI-1 and its associated transmission line corridors.

The NRC staff plans to hold two public NEPA scoping meetings on May 1, 2008. The first session will be held in the afternoon and an identical session will be held later that evening. The afternoon session will be held at the Elks Movie Theatre, 4 West Emaus Street, Middletown, PA 17057. The evening session will be held at Londonderry Elementary School, 260 Schoolhouse Road, Middletown, PA 17057. The first meeting will convene at 1:30 p.m. and will continue until 4:30 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m. and will continue until 10:00 p.m., as necessary. In addition, during the week of April 28, 2008, the NRC plans to conduct a site audit. You and your staff are invited to attend both the public meetings and the site audit. 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 December 2008.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's review of this license renewal application, please contact Ms. Sarah Lopas, License Renewal Project Manager, at 301-415-1147 or by e-mail at sl2@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Louise Lund, Branch Chief
Projects Branch 1
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-289

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/encls: See next page

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/RA/

Louise Lund, Branch Chief
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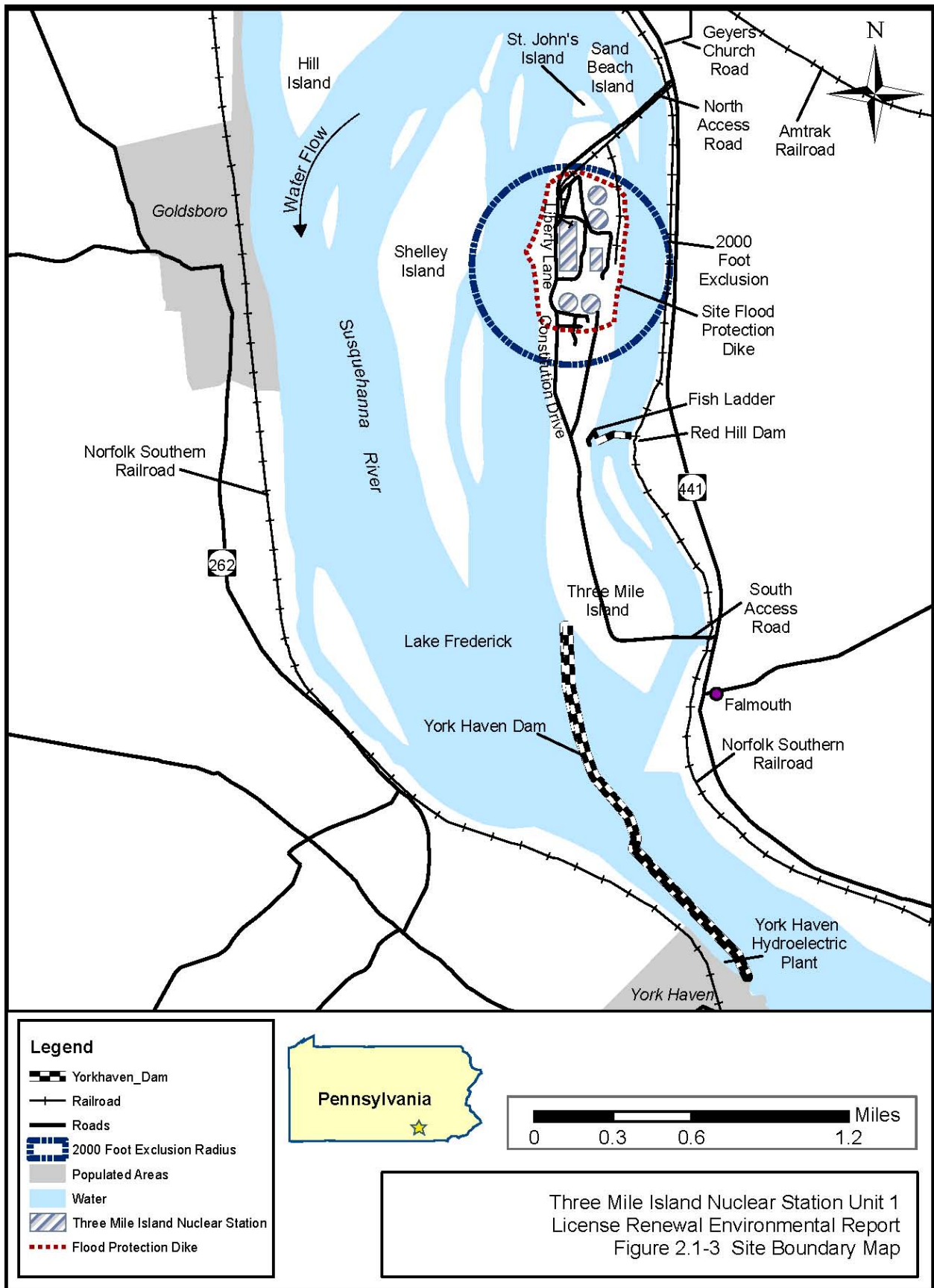
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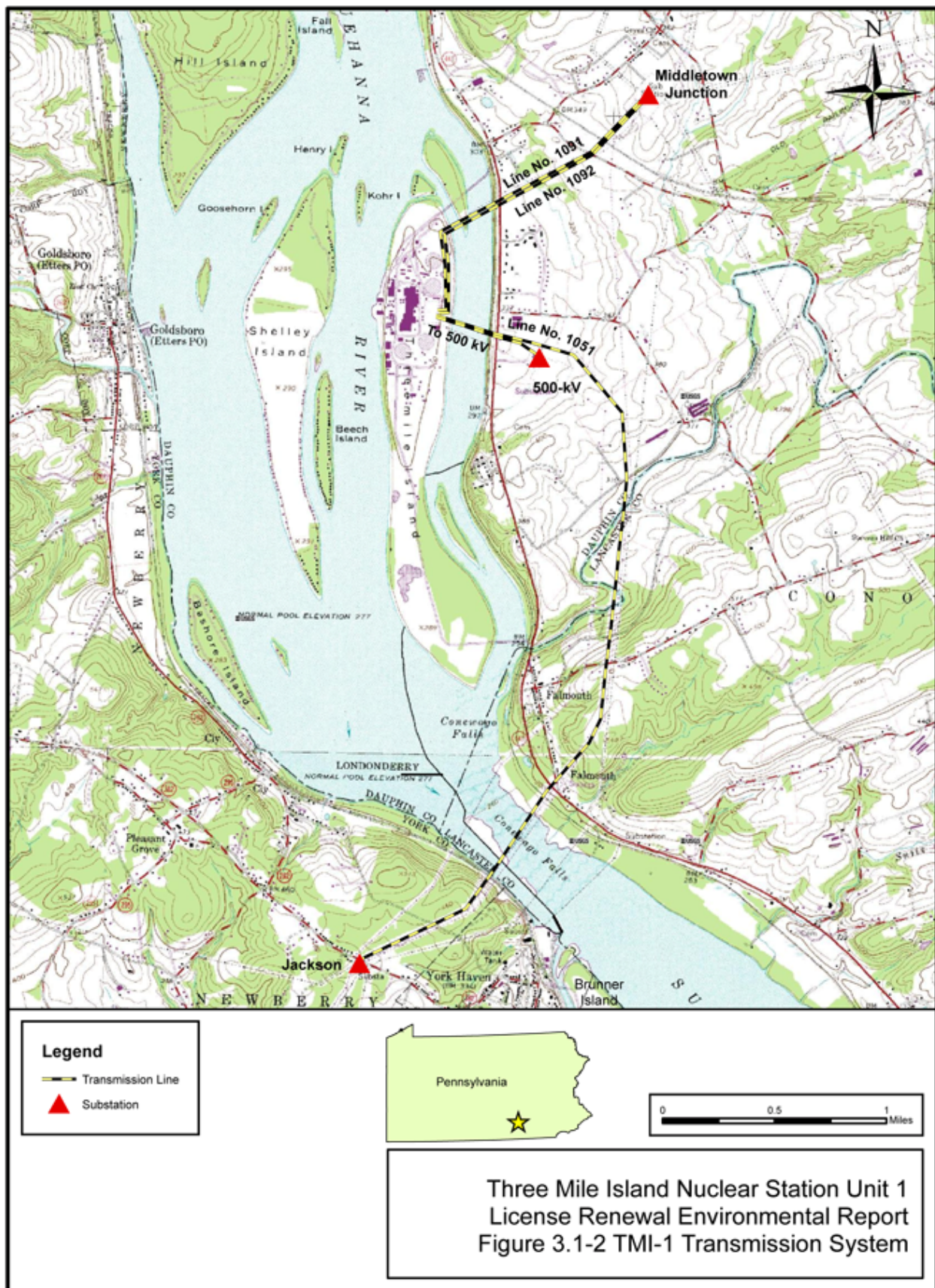
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ENCLOSURE 1



Letter to C. Firestone from L. Lund, April 15, 2008

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HABITATS WITHIN THE AREA UNDER EVALUATION FOR THE THREE MILE
ISLAND NUCLEAR STATION, UNIT 1, LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION
REVIEW

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