December 24, 2008

Mr. James G. Chandler
International Joint Commission
Great Lakes Water Quality Board
United States Section
1250 23rd Street N.W., Suite 100
Washington, D.C. 20440

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SCOPING PROCESS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW FOR THE FERMI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT, UNIT 3 COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION

Dear Mr. Chandler:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing an application submitted by Detroit Edison Company (Detroit Edison) for a combined license (COL) for construction and operation of a new nuclear power plant, Fermi Nuclear Power Plant, Unit 3 (Fermi 3), at its Enrico Fermi Atomic Power Plant (Fermi) site in Monroe County, Michigan, approximately 24 miles northeast of Toledo, Ohio and 30 miles southwest of Detroit, Michigan. As part of the review of this COL application, the NRC staff is preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, the NRC's regulations that implement the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). The EIS includes an analysis of pertinent environmental issues including impacts to water quality, fish, and wildlife.

Detroit Edison submitted the application for a COL for Fermi 3 on September 18, 2008, pursuant to the NRC requirements in 10 CFR Part 52. The NRC staff accepted the application for docketing on November 25, 2008. It is available through NRC's web-based Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS), which can be found at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html. The Environmental Report (ER), which is Part 3 of the COL application, is listed under the accession number ML082730660. The Fermi 3 COL application is also available on the Internet at http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/fermi.html.

The Fermi site is located on approximately 1,260 acres along the western shore of Lake Erie (see enclosed map of the site and vicinity). The Fermi site currently has one operating boiling water reactor, Fermi Nuclear Power Reactor Unit 2 (Fermi 2), which has the capacity to generate 1,089 megawatts of electricity. In addition, there is one non-operating reactor, Fermi Nuclear Power Reactor Unit 1, which has been defueled and is in the process of being decommissioned. Detroit Edison proposes to construct one new nuclear unit adjacent to the existing facilities in an area that has been previously disturbed with a portion extending into undeveloped wetlands. The Fermi property is zoned as a Public Service District, which allows for power plant use. For Fermi 3, Detroit Edison has identified the need for transmission line upgrades as well as three new transmission line corridors and a separate switchyard. The siting

area for the new transmission lines would include Monroe, southwest Wayne, and southeast Washtenaw Counties, Michigan.

The proposed cooling system consists of an intake bay that extends into Lake Erie, circulating water systems throughout the plant, and the loss of some water through heat dissipation into the atmosphere and water discharged into Lake Erie. Approximately 34,000 gallons per minute (gpm) would be withdrawn from Lake Erie during normal operations to make up losses from evaporation, drift, and blowdown. Waste heat would be dissipated to the atmosphere through a hyperbolic natural draft cooling tower. Blowdown from the cooling tower would be transported to an outfall that discharges into Lake Erie.

The NRC staff, in its review, will evaluate the environmental impacts of construction and operation of Fermi 3 and alternatives, including alternative sites. Four alternative sites are being considered for evaluation in the EIS. These sites are located in Monroe County approximately four miles south of the River Raisin, Lenawee County along a tributary of the River Raisin, St. Clair County approximately 10 miles from Lake Huron, and another site in St. Clair County approximately two miles west of the St. Clair River. Should a different set of alternative sites be evaluated in the EIS, the NRC would contact your office. The NRC staff will also evaluate impacts from transmission line rights-of-way and site preparation activities, such as land clearing and excavation, in cumulative impacts analysis.

To support preparation of the NRC EIS on the proposed action, the NRC requests that your office provide to the NRC staff any information, comments, or concerns you consider appropriate with regard to water use or quality, aquatic biota and their habitat, or any other environmental resources of interest to your organization that may be in the vicinity of the Fermi 3 site, the alternative sites, and the associated transmission line rights-of-way.

The NRC staff plans to hold two NEPA public scoping meetings on January 14, 2009 at the Monroe County Community College's La-Z-Boy Center Meyer Theater located at 1555 South Raisinville Road, Monroe, Michigan 48161. The first meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m. and will continue until approximately 4:00 p.m. The second meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repetition of the overview portions of the first meeting, and will continue until approximately 10:00 p.m. Each meeting will be preceded by an open house from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm and from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm, respectively, during which members of the public may meet and talk with NRC staff members on an informal basis. In the event that the La-Z-Boy Center Meyer Theater is closed due to weather conditions on January 14, 2009, the open houses and scoping meetings would be held on January 15, 2009 during the same hours as listed above. In addition, during the week of February 2, 2009, the NRC plans to conduct a site audit to discuss with Detroit Edison the detailed information that is the basis for the preparation of the ER, to perform a walk down of the site and its environs, and to review documentation. You and your staff are invited to attend both the public meetings and the site audit.

Please provide any information, comments, or concerns you feel are appropriate on the scope of the proposed action during the scoping comment period, which ends on February 9, 2009.

Comments should be submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rules and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001 or by e-mail to Fermi3.COLEIS@nrc.gov. When the NRC staff completes the draft EIS on the proposed action, the staff plans to send the draft EIS to your office for comment. The anticipated publication date for the draft EIS is January 2010.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's environmental review of this COL application, please contact Ms. Michelle Moser at 301-415-6509 or by email at Michelle.Moser@nrc.gov. In her absence, please contact Mr. Stephen Lemont, Project Manager at 301-415-5163 or by email at Stephen.Lemont@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Gregory P. Hatchett, Acting Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-033

Enclosure:
As stated

cc: See next page

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Sincerely,

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Gregory P. Hatchett, Acting Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of Site and Environmental Reviews
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OFFICE	PS:RAP2: DSER:NRO	LA:RAP2: DSER:NRO	BIO:RENV: DSER:NRO	PM:RAP2: DSER:NRO	OGC	BC:RAP2: DSER:NRO
NAME	MMoser	ARedden	PDoub	SLemont	MCarpentier	GHatchett
DATE	11/19/08	11/14/08	11/19/08	11/17/08	12/02/08	12/24/08

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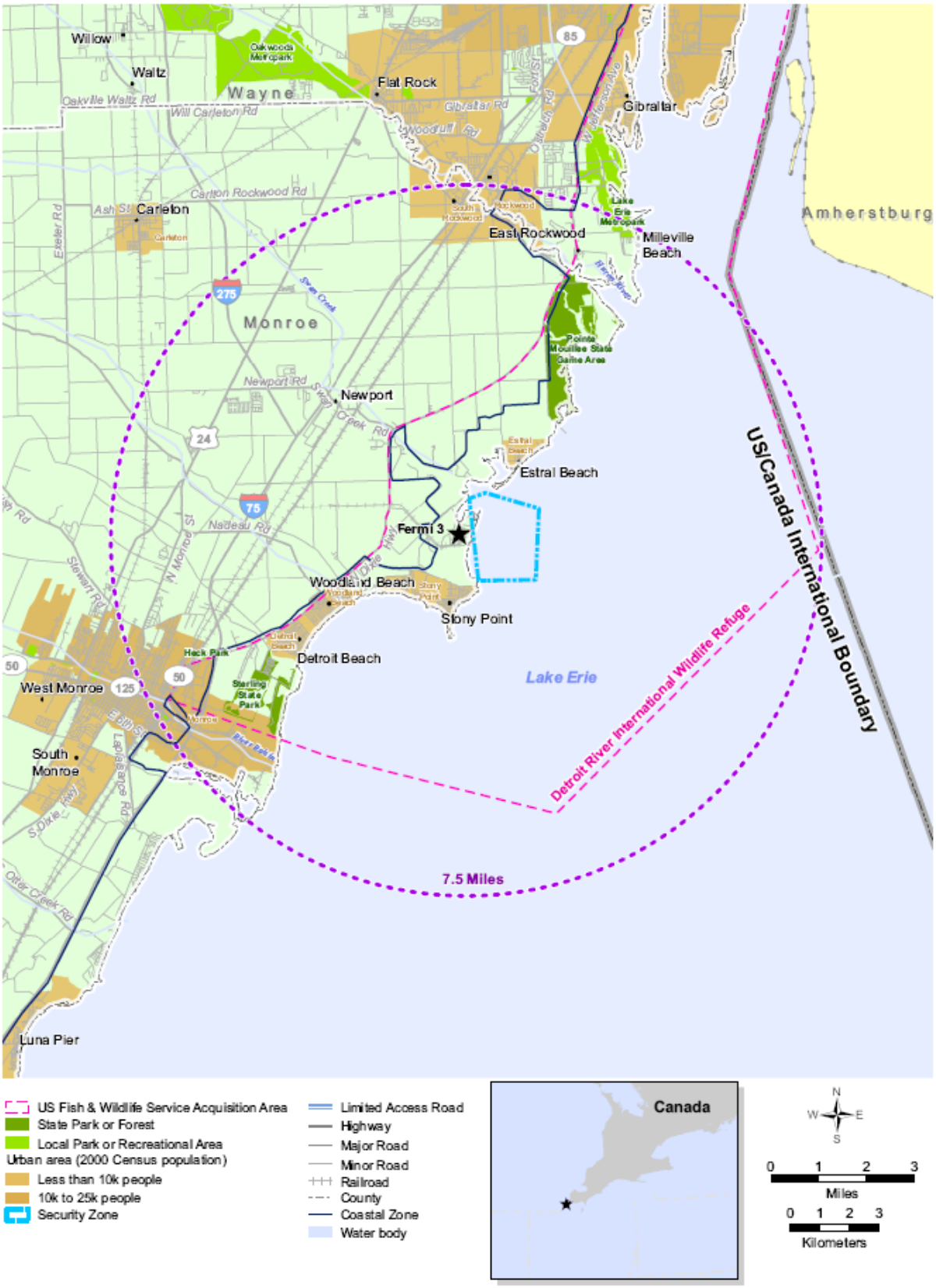
Map of the Fermi 3 Site and Vicinity



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