April 13, 2009

Mr. Sam D. Hamilton, Regional Director
Southeast Regional Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1875 Century Blvd. NE, Suite 400
Atlanta, GA 30345

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER EVALUATION FOR THE CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC or the staff) is reviewing an application submitted by Florida Power Corporation for the renewal of the operating license for Crystal River Unit 3 Nuclear Generating Plant (CR-3). CR-3 is located 35 miles southwest of Ocala, Florida. 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. This letter is being submitted under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended.

The proposed action is to renew the facility operating licenses for CR-3 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 Crystal River site is on Crystal Bay, a shallow embayment of the Gulf of Mexico. The CR-3 site covers approximately 4,738 acres, of which approximately 1,062 acres is industrial. The area surrounding CR-3 is characterized by approximately 3,676 acres consisting of four natural habitat types: salt marsh, hardwood hammock forest, pineland, and freshwater swamp.

The cooling water intake structure for CR-3 is located approximately 400 feet east of the intake for Units 1 and 2 (Enclosure1), which are fossil fuel generating units. A chain link fence extends across the entire width of the intake canal downstream of the intakes for Units 1 and 2. It is intended to intercept floating and partially submerged debris and restrict access to the Unit 3 intake. The Unit 3 intake is 118 feet across and fitted with external trash racks with 4-inch openings between bars. There are four pump bays, each with conventional traveling screens with 3/8-inch mesh. The screens are rotated and washed every 8 hours. Material from the traveling screens is washed onto a trough and sluiced to a sump adjacent to the intake canal. CR-3 uses four circulating water pumps. The discharge from the once-through cooling systems of Units 1, 2, and 3 is used as cooling tower makeup for Units 4 and 5, which are fossil fuel generating units.

The Final Environmental Statement (Atomic Energy Commission, 1973) identifies two 500-kilovolt transmission lines that were built to connect CR-3 to the electric grid: (1) the Central Florida line terminating at the central Florida Substation and (2) the Lake Tarpon line terminating at the Lake Tarpon Substation. The lines are contained in a common corridor for the first 5.3 miles of corridor, then diverge, with the Central Florida line continuing east and the Lake Tarpon line angling southeast, continuing directly south, and turning southwest toward Tarpon Springs (Enclosure 2). The transmission corridors of interest are approximately 134 miles long and occupy approximately 2,440 acres. Both lines are owned and operated by Florida Power Corporation. The corridors pass through low population areas that are primarily forest and agricultural land (Environmental Protection Agency, 1994). The lines cross numerous state and U.S. highways and the Withlacoochee, Pithlachascotee, and Anclote rivers. Corridors that pass through agricultural land generally continue to be used as such. Florida Power Corporation plans to maintain these transmission lines, which are integral to the larger transmission system, indefinitely. These transmission lines will remain a permanent part of the transmission system after CR-3 is decommissioned.

To support the SEIS preparation process and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, the NRC requests information on Federally-listed, proposed, and candidate species and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of CR-3 and its associated transmission line rights-of-way. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

The NRC staff will hold two public license renewal and environmental scoping meetings on April 16, 2009, at the Plantation Inn, 9301 W Fort Island Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429. The first meeting will convene at 2:00 p.m. and will continue until 5:00 p.m., as necessary. The second meeting will convene at 7:00 p.m., with a repeat of the overview portions of the first 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. You and your staff are invited to attend both the public meetings and the site audit. Once the draft SEIS is completed, your office will receive a copy along with a request for comments.

The CR-3 LRA is available on the internet at http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/operating/licensing/renewal/applications/crystal/crystal-lra.pdf. If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff's review of this license renewal application, please contact Elaine Keegan, Project Manager, at 301-415-8517 or by e-mail at elaine.keegan@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

\RA Lisa Regner for

David J. Wrona, Chief
Projects Branch 2
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-302

Enclosures:
1. Transmission System
2. Crystal River Site Layout

cc w/encls.: See next page

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Enclosures:
1. Transmission System
2. Crystal River Site Layout

cc w/encls.: See next page

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DATE	04/13/09	04/13/09	04/13/09

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Letter to S. Hamilton from D. Wrona dated April 13, 2009

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SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER EVALUATION FOR THE CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 NUCLEAR GENERATING PLANT LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

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RidsOgcMailCenter
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RKuntz
DBrittner
AJones, OGC
LLake, RII
MSykes, RII
TMorrissey, RII
RReyes, RII

Crystal River Nuclear Plant, Unit 3

cc:

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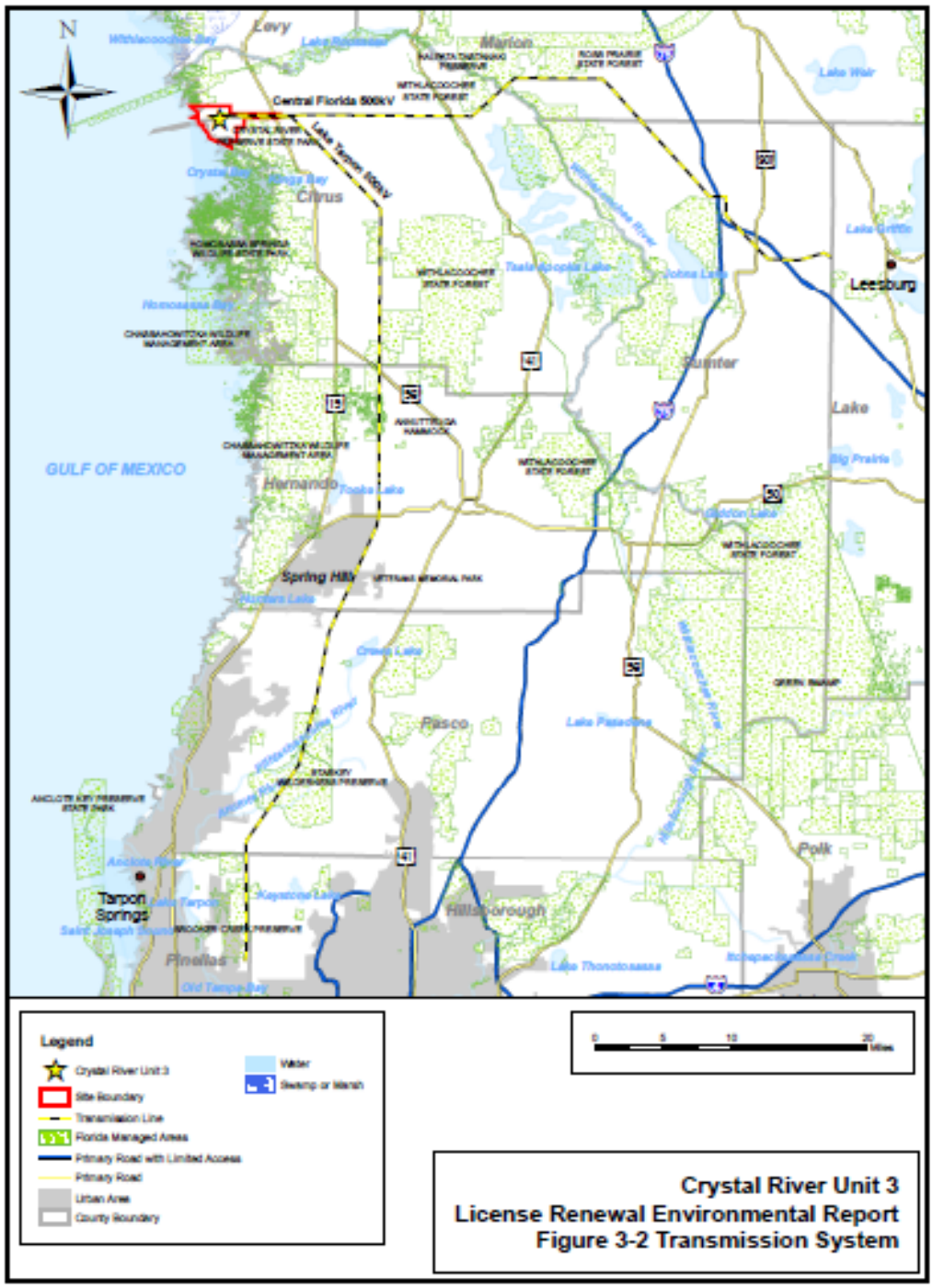
Legend

- Site Boundary
- Crystal River Site Structures

0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

Crystal River Unit 3
License Renewal Environmental Report
Figure 3-1 Crystal River Site Layout

ENCLOSURE 1



Crystal River Unit 3
License Renewal Environmental Report
Figure 3-2 Transmission System