



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

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Office of Natural Lands Management
Natural Heritage Program
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MARK N. MAURIELLO
Acting Commissioner

January 27, 2009

Stacey Imboden
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
MS T6D38-M
Rockville, MD 20852

Re: Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant - Alternate Site: Martin's Creek, N.J.

Dear Ms. Imboden:

Thank you for your data request regarding rare species information for the above referenced project site in White Township, Warren County.

Searches of the Natural Heritage Database and the Landscape Project (Version 3 for the highlands region, Version 2.1 elsewhere) are based on a representation of the boundaries of your project site in our Geographic Information System (GIS). We make every effort to accurately transfer your project bounds from the topographic map(s) submitted with the Request for Data into our Geographic Information System. We do not typically verify that your project bounds are accurate, or check them against other sources.

We have checked the Natural Heritage Database and the Landscape Project habitat mapping for occurrences of any rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat on the referenced site. Please see Table 1 for species list and conservation status.

Table 1 (on referenced site).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Grank	Srank
bald eagle foraging	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>		E	G4	S1B,S1N
barred owl	<i>Strix varia</i>		T/T	G5	S2B,S2N
bobcat	<i>Lynx rufus</i>		E	G5	S1
Cooper's hawk	<i>Accipiter cooperii</i>		T/S	G5	S2B,S4N
red-shouldered hawk	<i>Buteo lineatus</i>		E/T	G5	S1B,S2N
wood turtle	<i>Glyptemys insculpta</i>		T	G4	S2

We have also checked the Natural Heritage Database and the Landscape Project habitat mapping for occurrences of any rare wildlife species or wildlife habitat within 1/4 mile of the referenced site. Please see Table 2 for species list and conservation status. This table excludes any species listed in Table 1.

Table 2 (additional species within 1/4 mile of referenced site).

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status	State Status	Grank	Srank
grasshopper sparrow	<i>Ammodramus savannarum</i>		T/SC	G5	S2B,S3N
savannah sparrow	<i>Passerculus sandwichensis</i>		T/T	G5	S2B,S4N

We have also checked the Natural Heritage Database for occurrences of rare plant species or ecological communities. The Natural Heritage Database has records for occurrences of *Sporobolus compositus* var. *compositus* that may be on the site and for *Stachys tenuifolia* and *Taxus canadensis* that may be on or in the immediate vicinity of the site and for *Hypericum pyramidatum* and *Dirca palustris* that may be in the immediate vicinity of the site. The attached lists provide more information about these occurrences. **Because some species are sensitive to disturbance or sought by collectors, this information is provided to you on the condition that no specific locational data are released to the general public.**

This is not intended to preclude your submission of this information to regulatory agencies from which you are seeking permits.

A list of rare plant species and ecological communities that have been documented from Warren County can be downloaded from <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/countylist.html>. If suitable habitat is present at the project site, the species in that list have potential to be present.

Status and rank codes used in the tables and lists are defined in EXPLANATION OF CODES USED IN NATURAL HERITAGE REPORTS, which can be downloaded from http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/nhpcodes_2008.pdf.

The Natural Heritage Program reviews its data periodically to identify priority sites for natural diversity in the State. Included as priority sites are some of the State's best habitats for rare and endangered species and ecological communities. One of these sites is located within or near the areas you have outlined. Please refer to the enclosed Natural Heritage Priority Site Map for the location and boundary of this site. On the back of each Priority Site Map is a report describing the significance of the site.

If you have questions concerning the wildlife records or wildlife species mentioned in this response, we recommend that you visit the interactive I-Map-NJ website at the following URL, <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/gis/depsplash.htm> or contact the Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program at (609) 292 9400.

PLEASE SEE 'CAUTIONS AND RESTRICTIONS ON NHP DATA', which can be downloaded from <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/heritage/newcaution2008.pdf>.

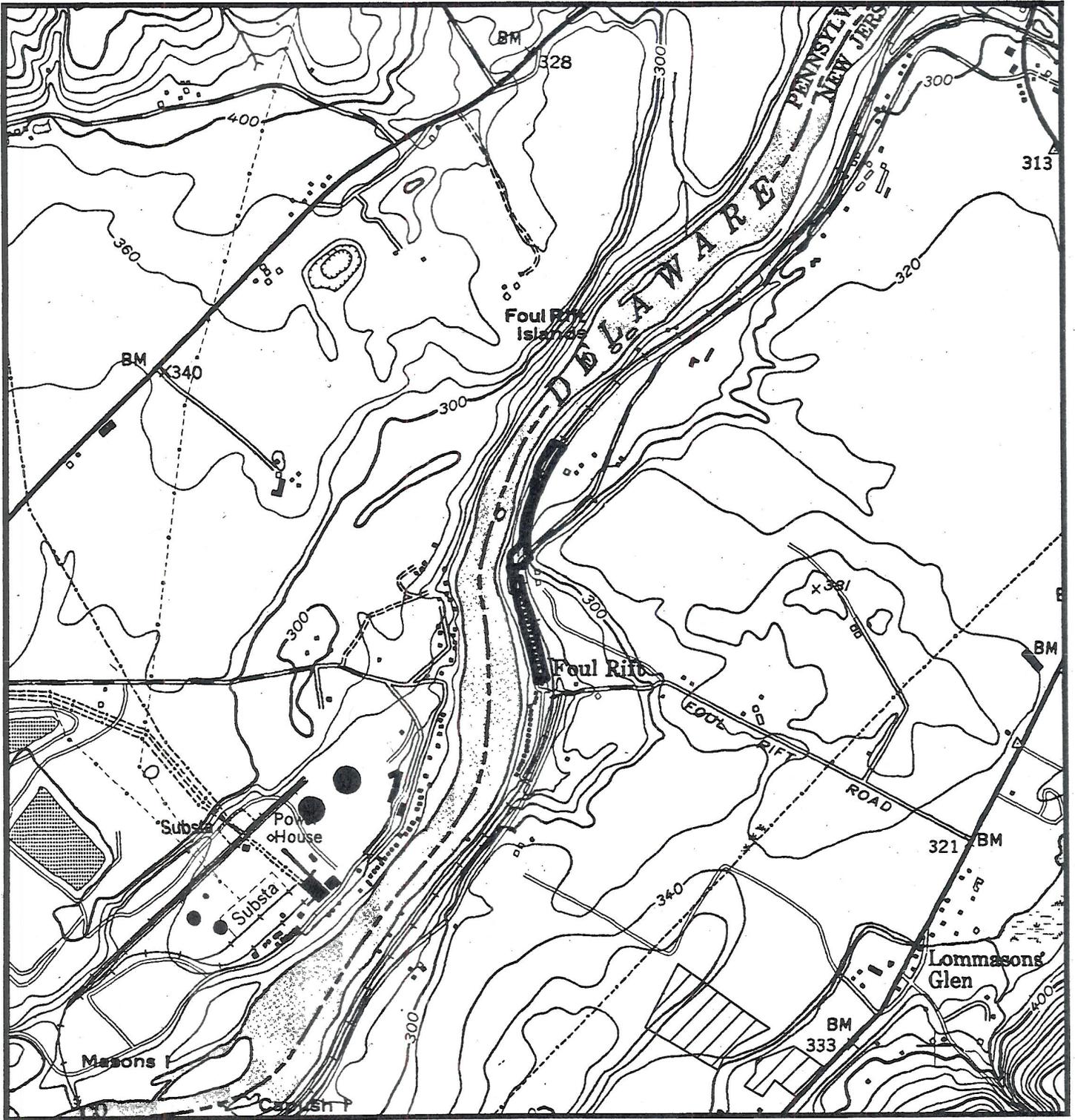
Thank you for consulting the Natural Heritage Program. The attached invoice details the payment due for processing this data request. Feel free to contact us again regarding any future data requests.

Sincerely,



Herbert A. Lord
Data Request Specialist

cc: Robert J. Cartica
NHP File No. 09-4007571-1513



Natural Heritage Priority Site

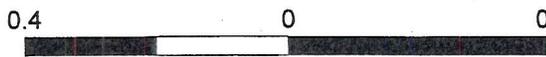
Foul Rift

Warren County

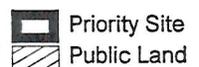


NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Parks and Forestry

Natural Lands Management



0.4 Miles



Natural Heritage Priority Site
Foul Rift

Locational Information

Quad Name: Belvidere
County: Warren
Municipality: White Twp

Description of Site

Shore of the Delaware River, and the wooded, rocky, limestone woods above the River.

Boundary Justification

Boundary encompasses critical habitat and buffer lands.

Biodiversity Rank **B5V4**

This site contains an occurrence of a plant species that is imperiled in the state.

Frequently Asked Questions

About Natural Heritage Priority Sites

What are Natural Heritage Priority Sites?

Through its Natural Heritage Database, the Office of Natural Lands Management (ONLM) identifies critically important areas to conserve New Jersey's biological diversity. The database provides detailed information on rare species and ecological communities to planners, developers, and conservation agencies for use in resource management, environmental impact assessment, and both public and private land protection efforts.

Using the database, ONLM has identified 414 Natural Heritage Priority Sites, representing some of the best remaining habitat for rare species and exemplary ecological communities in the state. The DEP Endangered and Nongame Species Program provided key information and assisted with the delineation of a number of the sites. These areas should be considered to be top priorities for the preservation of biological diversity in New Jersey. If these sites become degraded or destroyed, we may lose some of the unique components of our natural heritage.

How are Natural Heritage Priority Site maps used in conservation of biological diversity?

Natural Heritage Priority Site maps are used by individuals and agencies concerned with the protection and management of land. The maps have been used by municipalities preparing natural resource inventories; public and private conservation organizations preparing open space acquisition goals; land developers and consultants identifying environmentally sensitive lands; and public and private landowners developing land management plans.

Natural Heritage Priority Sites contain some of the best and most viable occurrences of endangered and threatened species and ecological communities, but they do not cover all known habitat for endangered and threatened species in New Jersey. If information is needed on whether or not endangered or threatened species have been documented from a particular piece of land, a Natural Heritage Database search can be requested by contacting the Office of Natural Lands Management at the address below.

What do the boundaries of the sites contain?

The boundaries of each Natural Heritage Priority Site are drawn to encompass critical habitat for rare species or ecological communities. Often the boundaries extend to include additional buffer lands that should be managed to protect the habitat. A justification for the boundary is provided for each site. The term "primary bounds" is sometimes used to refer to boundaries enclosing critical habitat. The term "secondary bounds" is sometimes used

to refer to boundaries enclosing additional buffer. In maps where both primary and secondary boundaries are described, only the outermost boundary is provided in the mapping.

What is the background map that the sites are drawn upon?

The sites are portrayed on background maps produced from a digital copy of the U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute topographic maps. The background maps contain topographic lines as well as streams, lakes, roads, towns and place names. These background maps do not always reflect recent changes in land development. Some may be more than 20 years old. Some sites appear to be shifted in position against this topo map. This shift is due to the fact that most sites have been digitized using rectified aerial photography, and some of the digitized USGS topo maps do not align with this photography.

What do "public lands" depict on the maps?

The "public lands" shaded on these maps are state-owned open space lands that have been digitized as a GIS coverage by the state Green Acres Program. This information is provided to show patterns of State land ownership in the vicinity of the Priority Site. The public lands are areas such as State Parks and Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, and Natural Lands Trust preserves. They do not currently include lands owned by other state agencies, federal, county or municipal governments or nonprofit conservation organizations. This GIS coverage is constantly being updated, and therefore future editions of the maps will likely contain additional public lands that are not currently mapped as such.

What is the biodiversity significance rank and how is it used?

Each site is ranked according to its significance for biological diversity using a scale developed by The Nature Conservancy, the network of Natural Heritage Programs, and the New Jersey Natural Heritage Program. The ranks can be used to distinguish between sites that are of global significance for conservation of biological diversity vs. those that are of state significance. The global biodiversity significance ranks range from B1 to B5. In some cases the global biodiversity significance rank is then combined with a state biodiversity significance rank which provides information about the significance of the site on a state level. The state biodiversity significance rank ranges from V1 to V5. The specific definitions for each rank are as follows:

B1 - Outstanding significance on a global level, generally the "last of the least" in the world, such as the only known occurrence of any element (species or ecological community),

the best or an excellent occurrence of an element ranked critically imperiled globally, or a concentration (4+) of good or excellent occurrences of elements that are imperiled or critically imperiled globally. The site should be viable and defensible for the elements or ecological processes contained.

B2 - Very high significance on a global level, such as the most outstanding occurrence of any ecological community. Also includes areas containing other occurrences of elements that are critically imperiled globally, a good or excellent occurrence of an element that is imperiled globally, an excellent occurrence of an element that is rare globally, or a concentration (4+) of good occurrences of globally rare elements or viable occurrences of globally imperiled elements.

B3 - High significance on a global level, such as any other viable occurrence of an element that is globally imperiled, a good occurrence of a globally rare element, an excellent occurrence of any ecological community, or a concentration (4+) of good or excellent occurrences of elements that are critically imperiled in the State.

B4 - Moderate significance on a global level, such as a viable occurrence of a globally rare element, a good occurrence of any ecological community, a good or excellent occurrence or only viable state occurrence of an element that is critically imperiled in the State, an excellent occurrence of an element that is imperiled in the State, or a concentration (4+) of good occurrences of elements that are imperiled in the State or excellent occurrences of elements that are rare in the State.

B5 - Of general biodiversity interest on a global level.

V1 - Outstanding significance on a state level. Only known occurrence in the state for an element or Site with an excellent occurrence or the best occurrence in the state for an element ranked critically imperiled in the state or a concentration (4+) of good or excellent occurrences of elements that are imperiled or critically imperiled in the state.

V2 - Very high significance on a state level. Includes sites containing other occurrences of elements that are critically imperiled in the state or a concentration (4+) of other occurrences of state imperiled elements and/or good or excellent occurrences of state rare elements.

V3 - High significance on a state level. Includes sites containing the best occurrence in the state or an excellent occurrence of a state imperiled element or multiple (2+) other occurrences for state imperiled elements and/or excellent, good or moderate quality occurrences of state rare elements.

V4 - Moderate significance on a state level. Includes sites containing the best occurrence in the state or an excellent occurrence of a state rare element or any site with other occurrences of a state imperiled element or multiple (2+) other occurrences of state rare elements.

V5 - Any site with any other occurrence of a state rare element.

Note: All sites have been assigned a global biodiversity significance rank (B rank), but not all sites have been assigned a state biodiversity rank (V rank).

How can I obtain Natural Heritage Priority Site maps for an area of interest to me?

Natural Heritage Priority Site hard copy maps can be obtained by submitting a written request accompanied by a check or money order made payable to the Office of Natural Lands Management at the following address:

Office of Natural Lands Management
P.O. Box 404
Trenton, NJ 08625-0404
Phone: 609-984-1339; Fax: 609-984-1427

Individual 8.5" X 11" maps are available at the following rate:

1 - 10 site maps & reports:	\$1.50/site
11 - 20 site maps & reports:	\$1.00/site
> 20 sites:	\$0.50/site

How often are the maps updated?

The Natural Heritage Priority Site information is constantly being updated in the Natural Heritage Database. A new edition of the maps will be made available after significant revisions or additions to the Database.

April 5, 2006



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