



Nebraska Public Power District

"Always there when you need us"

Joe L. Citta, Jr.
Corporate Environmental Mgr.
PH: 402-563-5355

May 8, 2009

Ms. June DeWeese
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
203 West Second Street
Federal Bldg., Second Floor
Grand Island, NE 68801

**RE: Nebraska Public Power District; Cooper Nuclear Station License Renewal
345kV Transmission Line Marking Proposal**

Dear Ms. DeWeese:

As part of the Cooper Nuclear Station (CNS) License Renewal Process Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) has recently been in discussions with members of your staff, specifically Mr. Robert Harms and Mr. Jeff Runge, regarding the 345kV transmission line running from CNS to a NPPD substation located just east of Grand Island, Nebraska.

The transmission line crosses wetland areas protected as Waterfowl Production Areas or State Wildlife Management Areas as well as the Platte River east of Grand Island, Nebraska. Recognizing these wetland areas and Platte River provide habitat for the endangered whooping crane, NPPD has been working in cooperation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to consider additional line marking to reduce the likelihood of collisions by whooping cranes.

After a field visit and informal discussions with the USFWS it was determined the wetlands are sufficiently marked with spiral bird flight diverters (BFD) but the segment of line that crosses the river and a portion of the line on the east side of the river crossing should be considered for marking. In addition it was identified that an additional 115kV transmission line, not associated with CNS, which crosses the river at the same point but at an angle to the 345kV line, should also be considered. Based upon data of sandhill crane use on the east side of the river it was suggested by the USFWS to mark the line in the low lying upland areas near the crossing also.

NPPD proposes to mark portions of the two lines that cross the river, a portion of the line on the east side, and the line in the low lying upland area near the crossing, with yellow BFD's spaced per the guidelines in the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee recommendations in the Mitigating Bird Collisions with Powerlines: The State of the Art in 1994. Total length to be marked will be (at a minimum) the approximate 1.65 miles as depicted on the attached aerial photograph. NPPD proposes to have the lines marked before December 31, 2009.

General Office
1414 15th Street / P.O. Box 499 / Columbus, NE 68602-0499
Telephone: (402) 564-8561 / Fax: (402) 563-5551
www.nppd.com



Ms. June DeWeese
Page 2
May 8, 2009

The proposed NPPD actions confirm the details of the discussions that took place between NPPD and USFWS colleagues, and I appreciate the USFWS willingness to work with NPPD on this matter.

I would appreciate receiving a letter in reply to our proposal. I would respectfully request that you consider stating in your reply that the proposed actions from NPPD address any concerns you have regarding the CNS 345kV transmission line, and the USFWS supports the CNS relicensing application.

Please contact me for any questions or comments.

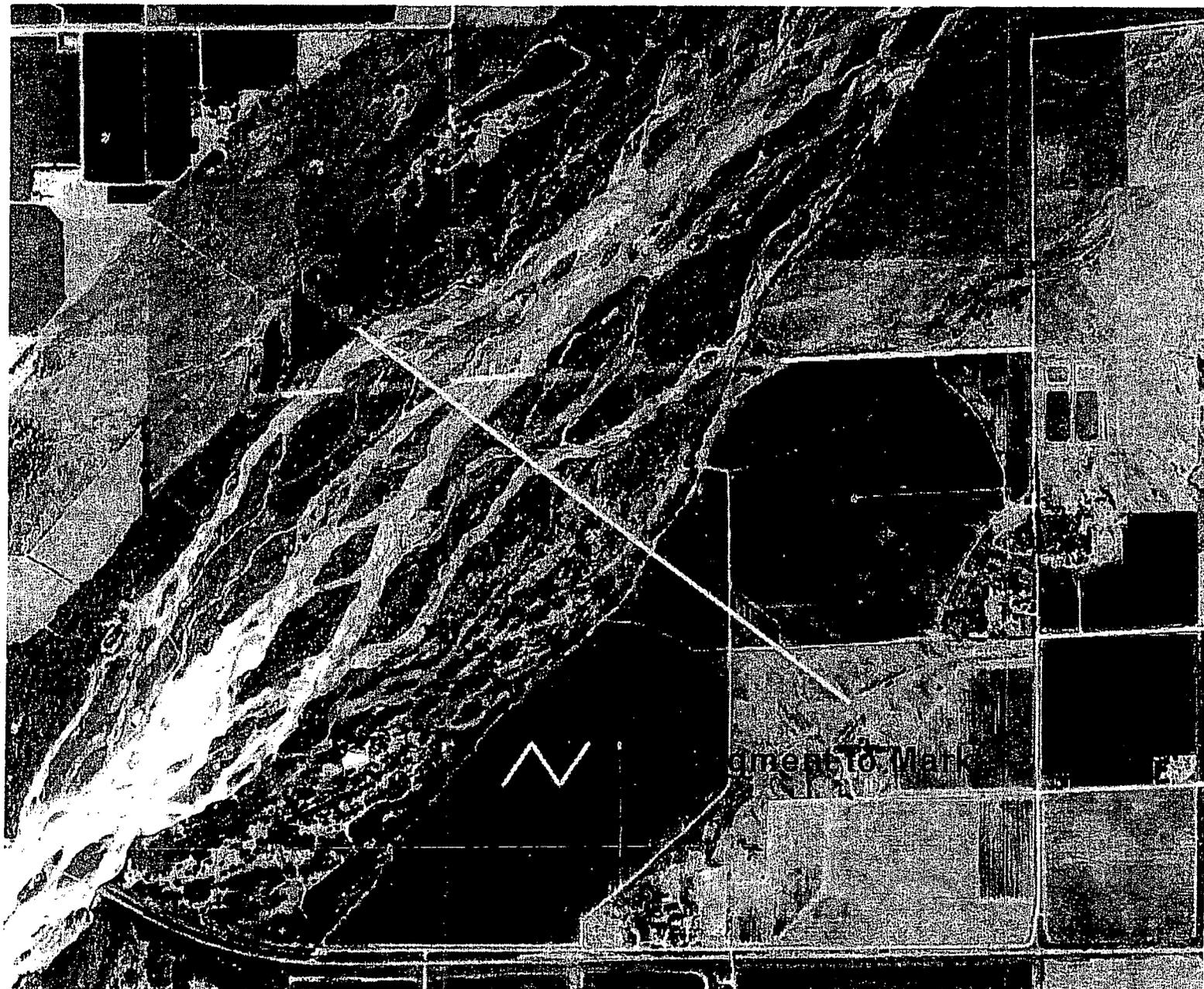
Sincerely,



Joe L. Citta, Jr.
Corporate Environmental Manager

Att.: Aerial Photograph

cc: Robert Harms w/att.
Jeff Runge w/att.



0.6

0

0.6

1.2 Miles

