

R. R. Sgarro
Manager-Nuclear Regulatory Affairs

PPL Bell Bend, LLC
38 Bomboy Lane, Suite 2
Berwick, PA 18603
Tel. 570.802.8102 FAX 570.802.8119
rrsgarro@pplweb.com



March 11, 2011

ATTN: Document Control Desk
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, DC 20555-0001

**BELL BEND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
RESPONSE TO ENVIRONMENTAL REQUESTS
FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION STO 2.1-1 AND
TE 2.4.7, AND SCHEDULE UPDATE FOR TE 2.4-6
BNP-2011-011 Docket No. 52-039**

- References: 1) BNP-2011-043, R. R. Sgarro (PPL Bell Bend, LLC) to U.S. NRC, "Schedule Update: Environmental RAIs TE 2.4-6, TE 2.-7, STO 2.1-1, LU 4.1-1, LU 5.1-1, and LU 5.1-2," dated February 11, 2011.
- 2) BNP-2010-227, R. R. Sgarro (PPL Bell Bend, LLC) to U.S. NRC, "BBNPP Plot Plan Change COLA Supplement, Part 3 (ER); Section 2.1 and Partial Response to STO 2.1-1, dated October 27, 2010.

The purpose of this letter is to respond to two Environmental Report (ER) requests for additional information (RAIs): STO 2.1-1 and TE 2.4-7. In addition, this letter revises the schedule for the response to RAI TE 2.4-6. These RAIs address environmental issues, as discussed in Part 3 of the Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant Combined License Application (BBNPP COLA).

In Reference 1, PPL Bell Bend, LLC (PPL) provided the NRC with schedule information related to submittal of RAI STO 2.1-1, RAI TE 2.4-6, and RAI TE 2.4-7. Enclosure 1 contains PPL's responses to RAIs STO 2.1-1 and RAI TE 2.4-7. The response to RAI STO 2.1-1 completes our response to this RAI (the initial portion of this response was provided in Reference 2). Enclosure 2 is a compact disc that contains a figure in tagged image file format (TIFF) to support the response to RAI STO 2.1-1. This file format is not required to pass NRC pre-flight requirements.

Additional time is required to prepare the response to RAI TE 2.4-6. This RAI relies upon the Wetlands Functions and Values Assessment report, which is currently being finalized. Accordingly, the response to RAI TE 2.4-6 will be provided on or before April 13, 2011.

The only new regulatory commitments contained in this submittal are the future revision of the COLA and the submittal of the response to RAI TE 2.4-6 by April 13, 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at 570.802.8102.

D102
NRO

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on March 11, 2011

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rocco R. Sgarro".

Rocco R. Sgarro

RRS/kw

Enclosures: 1) Partial Response to RAI STO 2.1-1 and Response to RAI TE 2.4-7
 2) RAI STO 2.1-1 Compact Disc with Figure 1

cc: (w/ Enclosures)

Dr. Donald Palmrose
Senior Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

(w/o Enclosures)

Mr. Michael Canova
Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Mr. William Dean
Regional Administrator
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Region I
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406-1415

Ms. Stacey Imboden
Project Manager
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852

Enclosure 1

Partial Response to RAI STO 2.1-1 and Response to RAI TE 2.4-7

STO 2.1-1 (Partial Response)**ESRP 2.2, 2.4, 2.5, and 4.3**

Summary: *Provide all Geographic Information System (GIS) and/or CAD data/databases used to support the ER analysis and results including existing and proposed conditions as appropriate. The data should generally include, but are not limited to:*

- *All existing and proposed site infrastructure data (roads, buildings, intake/discharge pipelines, transmission lines, utility right-of-ways/transmission corridors, power blocks, switchyards, pipeline corridors, cooling and retention ponds, dams, canals, rail lines, monitoring/instrument stations, etc.)*
- *Data related to preconstruction activities (associated with the construction of cooling ponds, haul roads, dredging, and other aspects of infrastructure necessary to support the construction of the BBNPP that will result in a discharge of dredged or fill material into Waters of the United States (i.e. requiring a Department of the Army Section 404/Section 10 permit).*
- *Location data (official property boundary, official unit point location, exclusion area boundary, and other relevant boundaries on-site or regionally)*
- *All surface and groundwater hydrologic data (watershed/subbasin boundaries, stream/river channels, springs, sinkholes, flood boundaries, reservoir boundary, site stormwater drainage, levees, hydrogeologic study boundaries, aquifers, potentiometric contours, well locations, surface water monitoring sites, etc.)*
- *All terrestrial and aquatic ecological data (wetlands, ponds, terrestrial and aquatic sampling sites, wildlife/habitat areas, land use/land cover, and threatened and endangered species locations). Data on wetland type and acreage amount.*
- *Terrain and bathymetric data (LiDAR, contours, river cross sections, bathymetric point samples, etc.)*
- *Socioeconomic data (sector data at various radii, census blocks with attribute data including low income and minority data, State/county park recreational area boundaries, trails, water trails, wildlife management units, traffic count data, commuter routes, etc.)*
- *Geology and soils data (site and vicinity data, faults, folds, seismic activity, etc.)*
- *Alternative (candidate) site data (point locations, proposed site boundary, proposed infrastructure, etc.).*

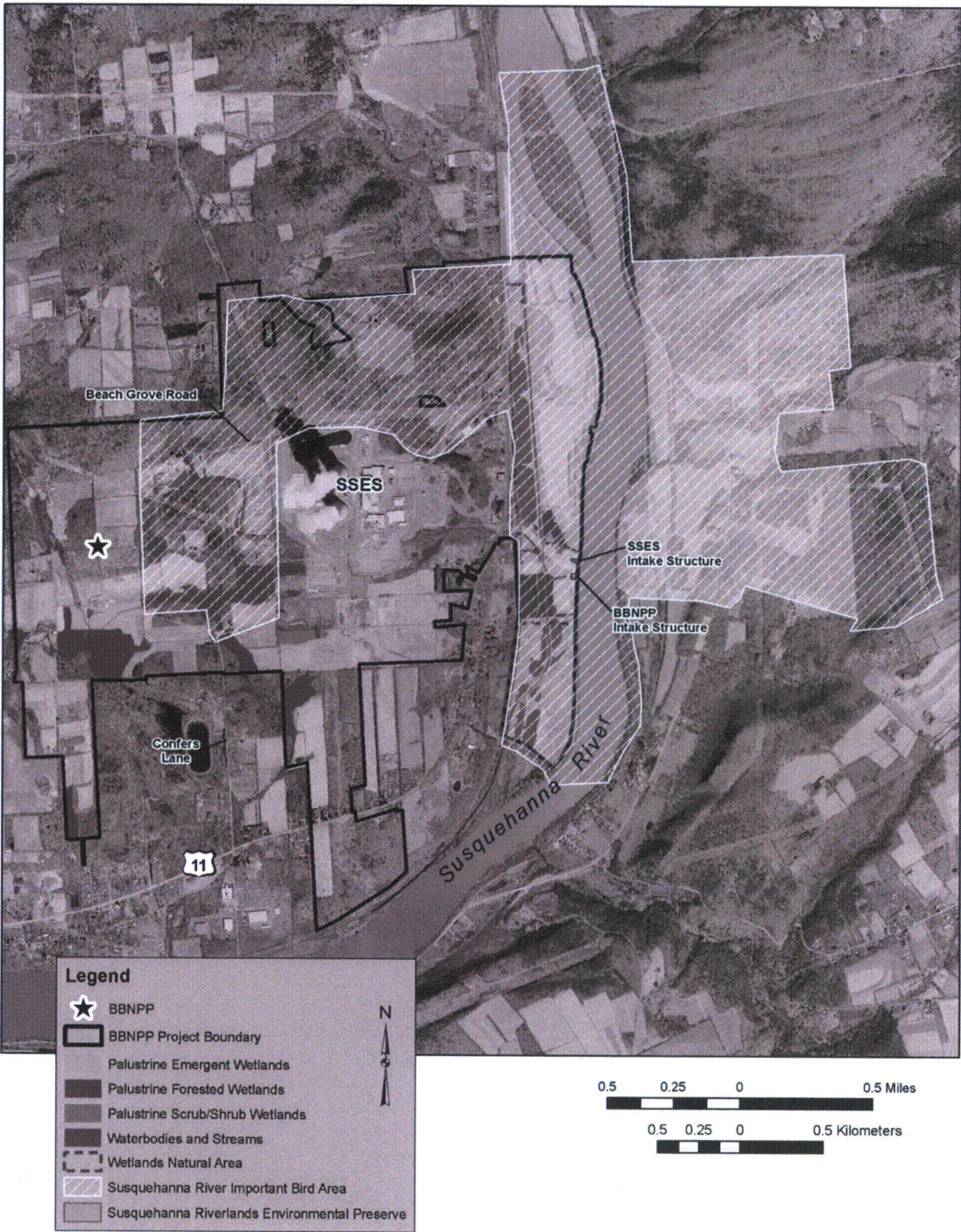
Full Text: PNNL has developed a GIS tool to assist in the conduct of impact assessments and to create figures where necessary. Databases used by the applicant are typically requested for addition to this GIS tool.

Response: This partial response provides a black & white version of ER Figure 2.4-7 (see Figure 1) and completes PPL's response to RAI STO 2.1-1. The enclosed CD contains this figure in TIFF format without the caption. The remainder of the response for RAI STO 2.1-1 was provided in BNP-2010-227 on October 27, 2010 (ML 103070310).

COLA Impact:

The BBNPP COLA will not be revised as a result of this response.

Figure 1 – Important Terrestrial Habitats in the Vicinity of BBNPP



RAI TE 2.4-7**ESRP 2.4.1**

Summary: *Provide ecological information describing the area identified for the proposed Susquehanna 500kV Switchyard 2.*

Full Text: In section 1.2.5 of the ER, it is stated that “one new 500 kV transmission system switchyard (Susquehanna 500 kV Yard 2),” would be constructed on the BBNPP site. In Figure 2.1-1, BBNPP Site and Proposed New Plant Layout, the area identified for the Proposed Susquehanna 500kV Switchyard 2 falls outside of the OCA. Clarify this apparent inconsistency (ref ER sections 1.2.5, 2.2.2.2, and 2.4.1.9), describe current land use, and provide the ecological data and community types, etc., needed to describe and evaluate potential impacts to this location. Figure 2.2-1, Land Use on the BBNPP Site, shows this area as forested.

Response: As part of the BBNPP footprint change, the location of the proposed 500 kV transmission system switchyard (Susquehanna 500 kV Yard #2) is now defined to be within the BBNPP Project boundary as will be indicated in the next revision to ER Figure 2.1-1 (reference BNP-2010-227). The ecological features of the proposed switchyard footprint area were surveyed during field studies performed in May and June 2010. The vegetative cover consists largely of mature upland deciduous forest. An existing transmission line corridor, which runs roughly north to south through the footprint, is maintained in upland old field and upland scrub/shrub communities. All vegetation communities in the vicinity of the proposed switchyard footprint are commonly found throughout eastern Pennsylvania. The footprint is well-drained and no wetlands were detected during field surveys of this area. In addition, no rare vegetation community types or species of rare plants were detected during these field surveys. Terrestrial faunal composition was similar to that previously observed in similar habitat types on other sections of the BBNPP site during the field studies performed between July 2007 and September 2008. Current land use for this area and the entire BBNPP site will be shown in the next revision of ER Figure 2.2-1 (reference BNP-2010-294). The information needed to evaluate potential impacts to land use at this location will be provided in the next revision of ER Section 2.2.1 (reference BNP-2010-294). ER Section 2.4.1 discusses terrestrial ecology within the BBNPP Site but generally does not address terrestrial ecology at specific locations such as the proposed location of Susquehanna 500 kV Yard #2. ER Figures 2.4-2 and 2.4-7 will be updated in a future revision of the COLA to show plant communities and important terrestrial habitats on and in the vicinity of the BBNPP Site. No changes are required for ER Section 2.4.2 (Aquatic Ecology).

References Cited in the Response

BNP-2010-227, R. R. Sgarro (PPL Bell Bend, LLC) to U.S. NRC, “BBNPP Plot Plan Change COLA Supplement, Part 3 (ER); Section 2.1 and Partial Response to STO 2.1-1,” dated October 27, 2010 (ML 103070310)

BNP-2010-294, R.R. Sgarro (PPL Bend Bend, LLC) to U.S. NRC, “BBNPP Plot Plan Change COLA Supplement, Part 3 (ER), Section 2.2 and Response to ER RAIs LU 3.7-1 & TE 4.3-2 (Partial Response),” dated November 11, 2010 (ML 103200240)

COLA Impact

BBNPP COLA ER Figures 2.4-2 and 2.4-7 will be revised as follows in a future revision of the COLA.

Figure 2.4-2 – Plant Community Map

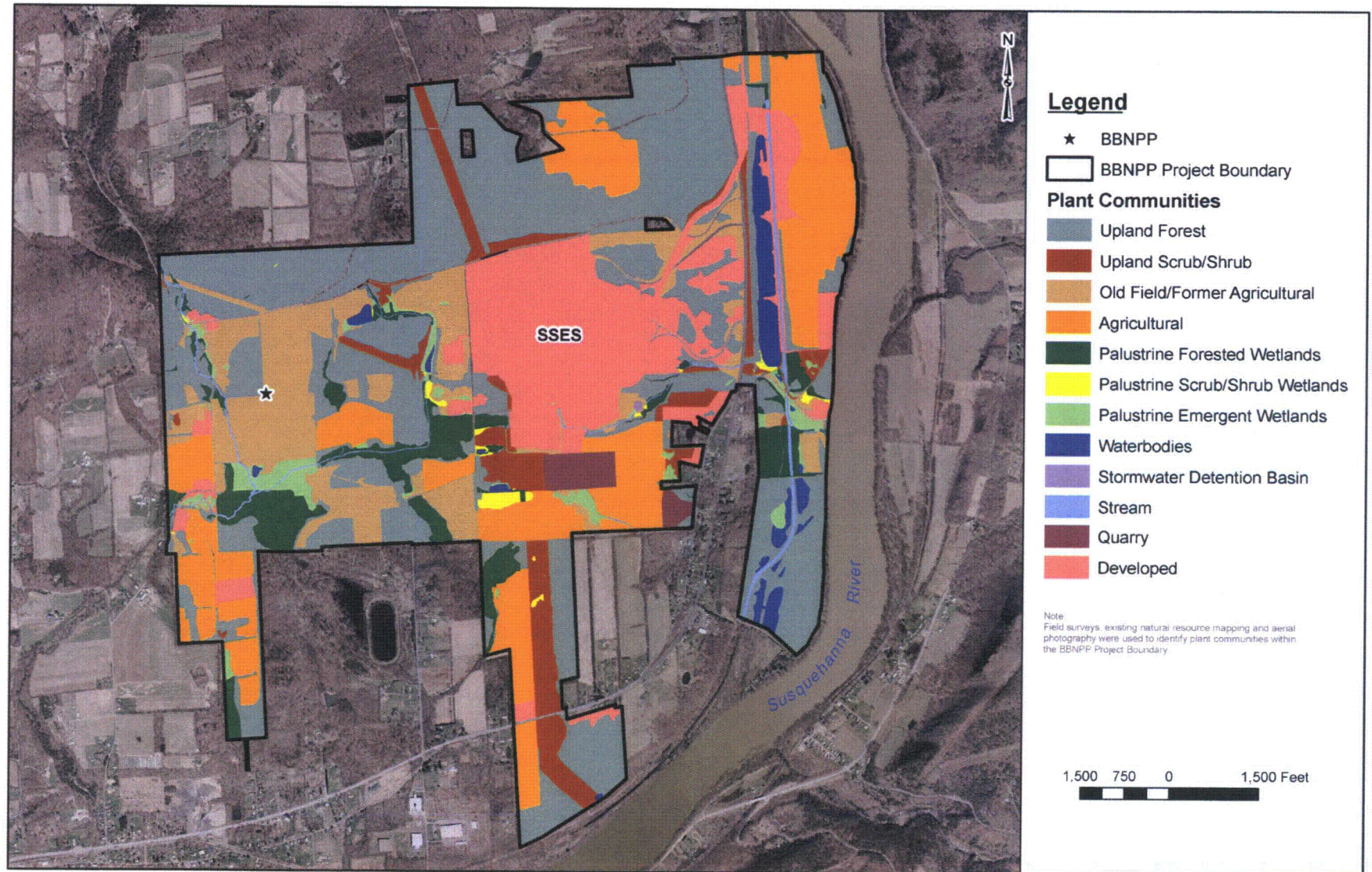
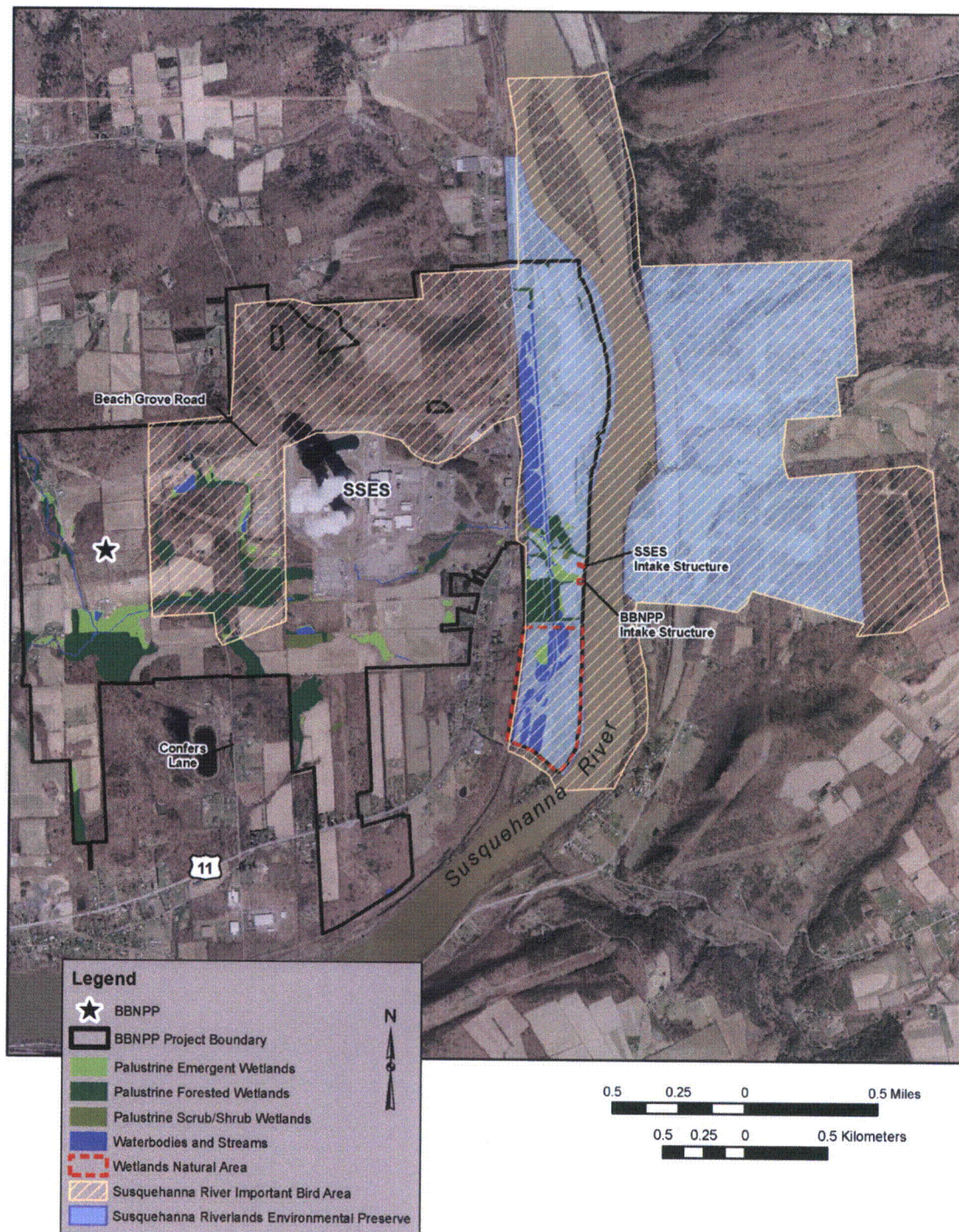


Figure 2.4-7 - Important Terrestrial Habitats in the Vicinity of BBNPP

Enclosure 2

RAI STO 2.1-1 Compact Disc with Figure 1