

RS-01-293

50-237/249

January 11, 2002

Mr. William Wheeler
State Historic Preservation Office Representative
Illinois Historic Preservation Agency
500 East Madison
Springfield, Illinois 62701

Subject: Dresden Nuclear Power Station, Units 2 and 3 License Renewal:
Request For Information in Historic/Archeological Resources

Exelon Generation Company (EGC), LLC (formerly Commonwealth Edison Company) is currently preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to renew the operating licenses for the Dresden Nuclear Power Station (DNPS) Units 2 and 3. The current operating licenses for Unit 2 and 3 expire in 2009 and 2011, respectively. The renewal term would be for an additional 20 years beyond the original license expiration date. As part of the license renewal process, NRC requires license renewal applicants to "assess whether any historic or archeological properties will be affected by the proposed project." By contacting your office early in the application process, we hope to identify any issues that we may need to address or any information that we should provide to your office to expedite your evaluation of the potential impact of the continued operation of DNPS on historic and archeological resources.

Exelon has operated DNPS and its associated transmission lines since 1970. As shown on Attachment A, DNPS is located in Goose Lake Township, Grundy County, Illinois, on the south shore of the Illinois River, at the confluence of the Des Plaines and Kankakee Rivers at river mile 272.4. The DNPS site is owned by EGC and it consists of approximately 2,500 acres, with an additional 17 acres of river frontage leased from the State of Illinois. No major metropolitan areas occur within six miles of DNPS. The site contains the two operating nuclear reactors and their turbine building, intake and discharge canals, a cooling pond and canals, cooling towers, auxiliary buildings, switchyards, and the retired DNPS Unit 1. In 1991, the American Nuclear Society designated DNPS Unit 1 as a Nuclear Historic Landmark. As shown on Attachment B, the 1,275-acre cooling pond is divided almost equally between Grundy and Will Counties.

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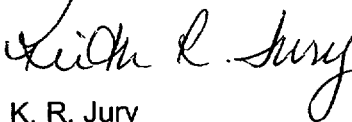
As shown on Attachments A and B, DNPS is connected to the power grid through seven 345-kilovolt lines. The Electric Junction corridor contains two lines running east from the plant and then turning north, crossing the Illinois River. The lines run 31.1 miles and have a right-of-way ranging from 130 to 380 feet wide. Two Goodings Grove lines cross the Kankakee River south of DNPS and then run northeast and terminate at the Elwood Substation. The Goodings Grove corridor is 12.4 miles long, with a 250-foot wide right-of-way. Pontiac Mid-Point is a 43.3-mile line that runs in a southwesterly direction, terminating south of Pontiac, Illinois. Powerton is a 104.5-mile line that crosses the Kankakee River twice before heading southwest and terminating near the Illinois River. This corridor has a right-of-way of 250 feet wide in most areas. The Collins Station line extends 11.8 miles from DNPS to the nearby Collins Station. These lines are the only transmission lines/corridors under review during this license renewal process.

EGC does not expect the operation of DNPS, including maintenance of the identified transmission lines, through the license renewal term to adversely affect cultural or historical resources in the area and region. No major structural modifications have been identified for the purposes of supporting license renewal. Any maintenance activities necessary to support license renewal would be limited to previously disturbed areas. No additional land disturbance is anticipated in support of license renewal. Accordingly, we request your concurrence with our determination that the license renewal process would have no effect on any historic or archeological properties.

After your review, we request receiving your input by March 29, 2002. In your response, please detail any concerns you may have about historic/archeological properties in the area or confirming our conclusion that operation of DNPS over license renewal term would have no effect on any historic or archeological properties in Illinois. This will enable us to meet our NRC application submittal schedule. EGC will include a copy of this letter and your response in the Environmental Report that will be submitted to the NRC as part of the DNPS license renewal application.

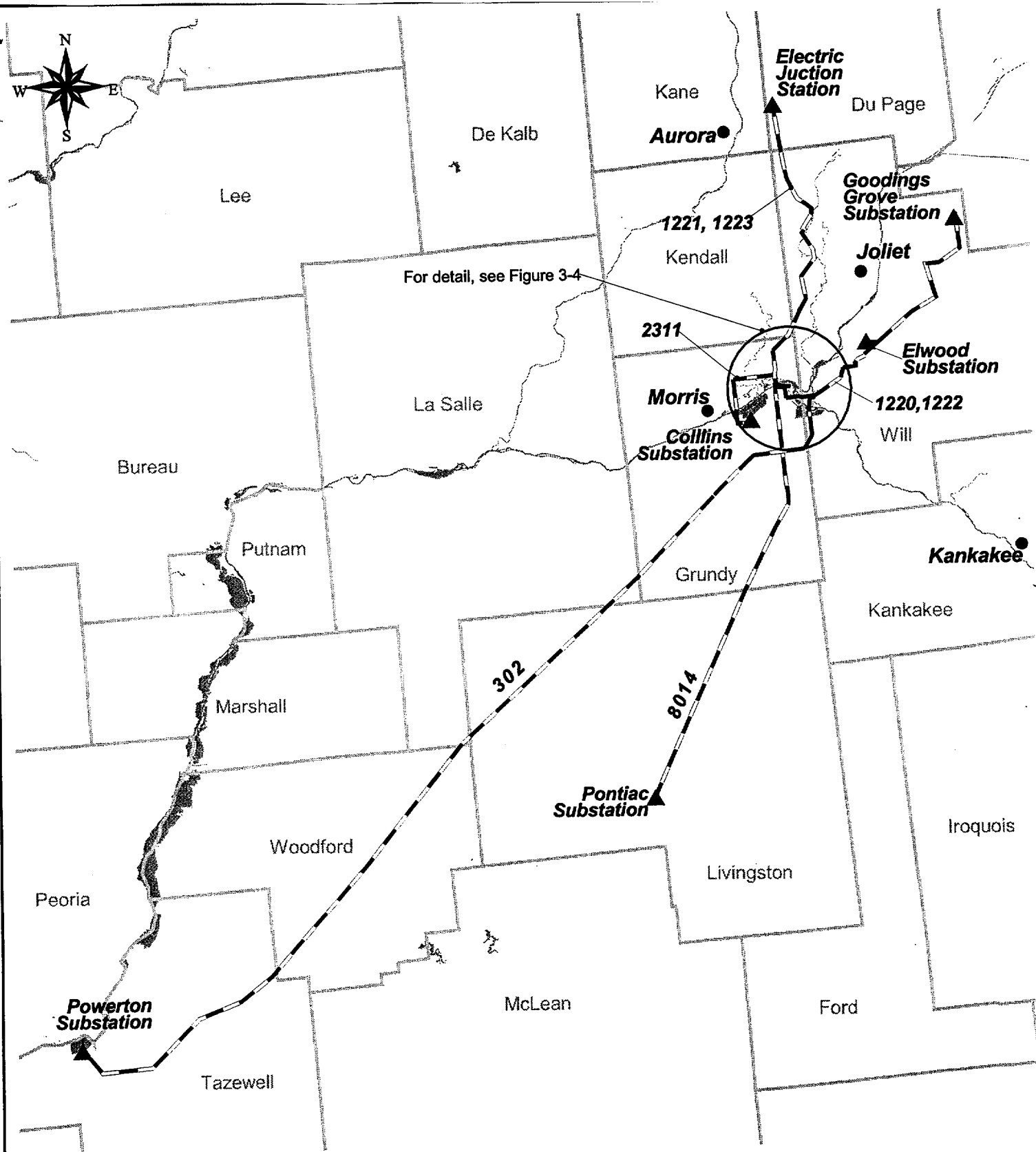
Should you have questions concerning this letter, please contact Mr. Terry Steinert at (630) 657-3213.

Respectfully,



K. R. Jury
Director – Licensing
Mid-West Regional Operating Group

Attachments: Attachment A, Figure 3-3, Transmission Line Map
Attachment B, Figure 3-4, Detailed Transmission Line Map



LEGEND

- ▲ Substations
- ▬ Transmission Lines
- ▬ State Boundary
- ▬ County Boundary
- ▬ Lakes and Rivers

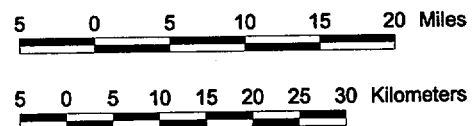
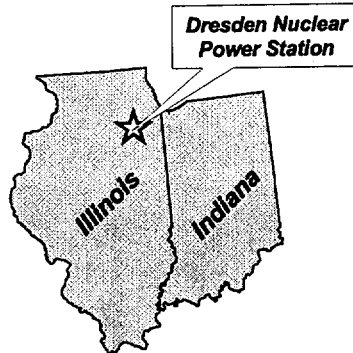


FIGURE 3-3
Transmission Line Map

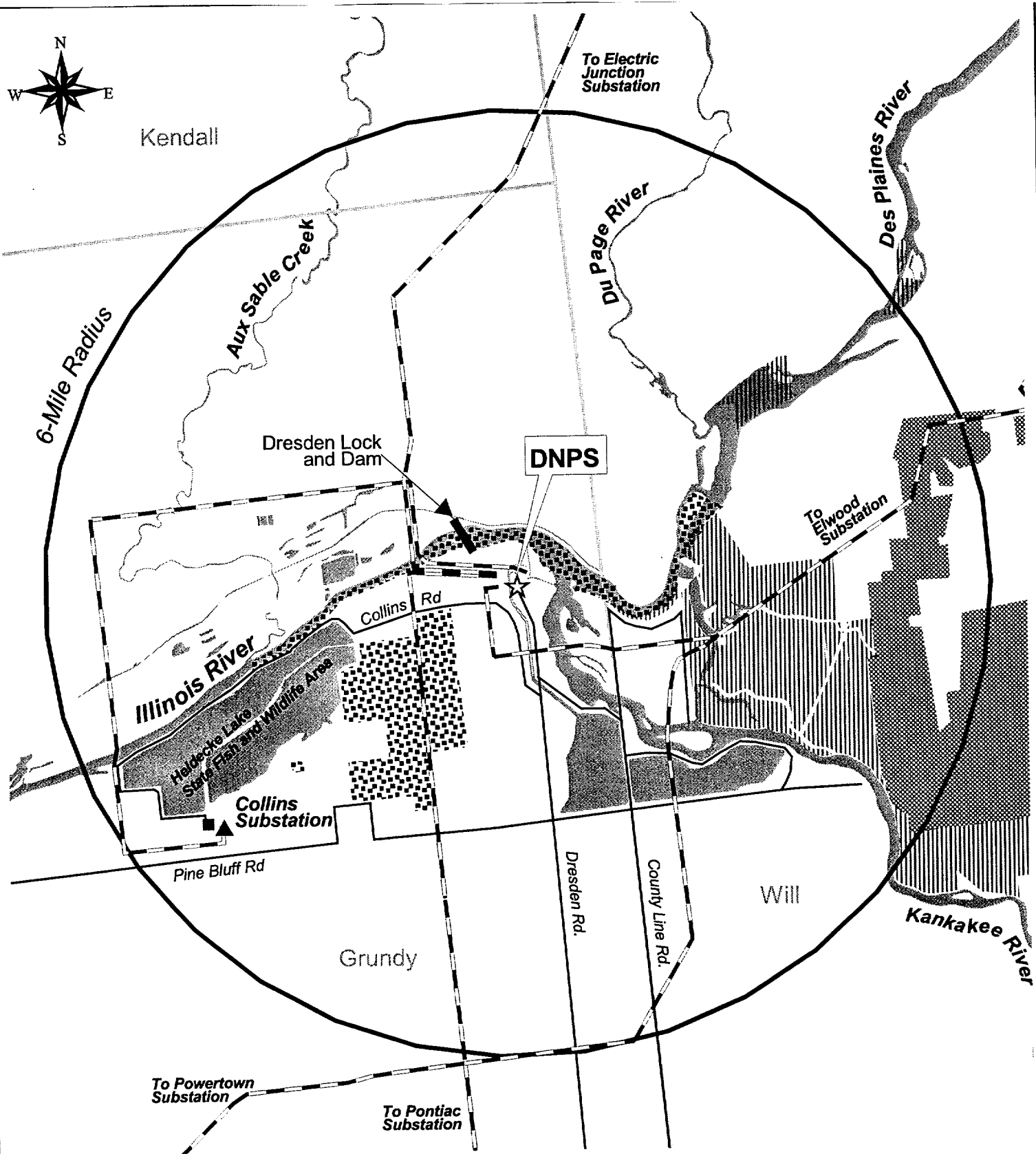


FIGURE 3-4
Detailed Transmission
Line Map