

September 19, 2006

Marvin Moriarty
Northeast Regional Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035-9589

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LIST OF PROTECTED SPECIES WITHIN THE AREA UNDER
EVALUATION FOR THE JAMES A. FITZPATRICK NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
LICENSE RENEWAL APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Moriarty:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is reviewing an application submitted by Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc. (Entergy) for the renewal of the operating license for James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant (JAFNPP). JAFNPP is located on Lake Ontario in Oswego County, approximately seven miles northeast of the City of Oswego, New York (Latitude 43.52 N, Longitude 76.39 W). 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 regulations 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.

Entergy has stated that if a renewed license is granted, it has no plans to alter current operations over the license renewal period, and that JAFNPP would use existing plant facilities and transmission lines and would not require additional construction or disturbance of new areas. The JAFNPP site covers approximately 702 acres, of which approximately 21 acres is industrial. The area surrounding JAFNPP is largely forested and rural, characterized by rolling terrain rising gently up from the lake.

JAFNPP uses a once-through open-cycle cooling system with an intake and discharge on Lake Ontario. The shore-facing intake is located approximately 900 feet offshore. Water coming into the intake passes through trash racks and traveling water screens. JAFNPP operates a fish deterrence system installed at the offshore intake structure from April to October of each year as required by their New York SPDES Permit.

The discharge water is returned to the lake through a discharge tunnel and diffuser system. The discharge structure is located approximately 1,400 feet offshore. The transmission lines in the scope of NRC's environmental review for license renewal are those that were originally constructed for the specific purpose of connecting the plant to the transmission system.

A single 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line was built to connect JAFNPP to the New York Power Pool transmission grid. The line runs from the plant switchyard to the Edic Substation located in Utica, New York. The transmission line right-of-way is 400 feet wide although only 150 feet were cleared for a total of 1,273 acres. The corridor passes through land that is primarily pine forest and swamp forest. There is also a short 345-kV transmission line from JAFNPP and the Nine Mile Point Nuclear Station. It runs 4,900 feet from the plants switchyard to the National Grid Scriba Substation. In addition to the 345-kV lines, offsite power is provided to JAFNPP by two single circuit 115-kV transmission lines connected to the plant's 115-kV bus.

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 JAFNPP and its associated transmission line right-of-way. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act.

We plan to hold two public NEPA scoping meetings at 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. on October 12, 2006, at the Scriba Town Municipal Building, 42 Creamery Road, Oswego, New York, 13126. On December 04, 2006, we plan to conduct a site audit at the JAFNPP facility. You and your staff are invited to attend both public meetings and the site audit. Your office will receive a copy of the draft SEIS along with a request for comments. The anticipated publication date for the draft SEIS is August 2007.

If you have any questions concerning the NRC staff review of the license renewal application, please contact Mr. Samuel Hernandez, Environmental Project Manager at 301-415-4049 or by e-mail at shq@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Rani Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-333

Enclosures:

1. JAFNPP Location Map
2. Transmission Lines Map

cc w/encls: See next page

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Rani Franovich, Branch Chief
Environmental Branch B
Division of License Renewal
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

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NAME	J. Muir SHQ for	Y. Edmonds	S. Hernandez	R. Franovich
DATE	09/19/06	09/18/06	09/19/06	09/19/06

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Letter to M. Moriarty from Rani Franovich, dated September 19, 2006

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DISTRIBUTION:

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E. Benner (RidsNrrDlrReba)

R. Schaaf

S. Hernandez

J. Muir

S. Werts

B. Mcdowell (mcdowell5@lnl.gov)

N. Lee

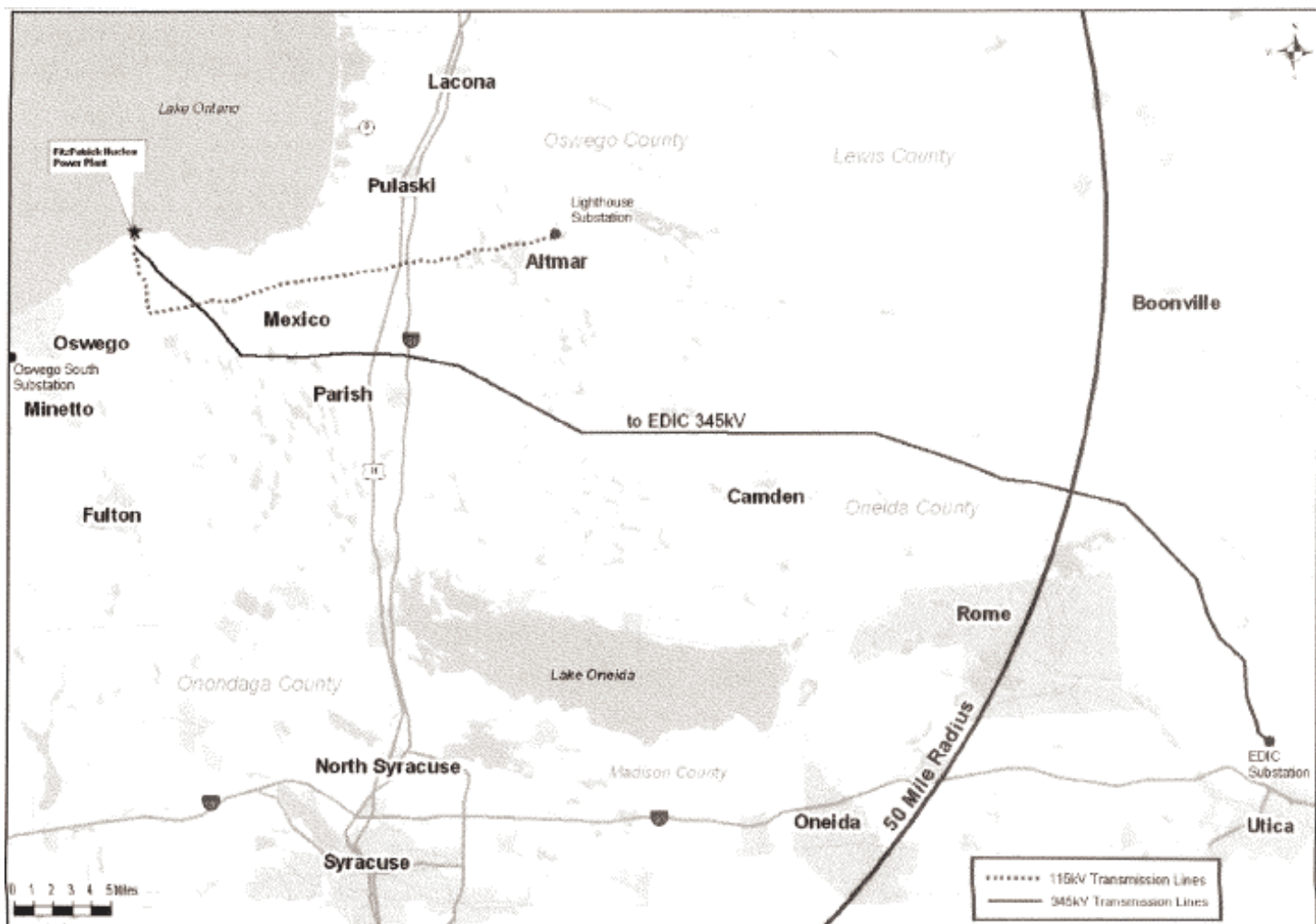
J. Boska

G. Hunegs

N. Sheehan, RI

RidsOGCMailRoom





FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant

cc:

Mr. Gary J. Taylor
Chief Executive Officer
Entergy Operations, Inc.
1340 Echelon Parkway
Jackson, MS 39213

Mr. John T. Herron
Sr. VP and Chief Operating Officer
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Peter T. Dietrich
Site Vice President
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 110
Lycoming, NY 13093

Mr. Kevin J. Mulligan
General Manager, Plant Operations
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 110
Lycoming, NY 13093

Mr. Oscar Limpas
Vice President Engineering
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Christopher Schwarz
Vice President, Operations Support
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. John F. McCann
Director, Licensing
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Resident Inspector's Office
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
P.O. Box 136
Lycoming, NY 13093

Ms. Charlene D. Faison
Manager, Licensing
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Michael J. Colomb
Director of Oversight
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. David Wallace
Director, Nuclear Safety Assurance
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 110
Lycoming, NY 13093

Mr. James Costedio
Manager, Regulatory Compliance
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
James A. FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 110
Lycoming, NY 13093

Assistant General Counsel
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
440 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

Mr. Charles Donaldson, Esquire
Assistant Attorney General
New York Department of Law
120 Broadway
New York, NY 10271

FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant

cc:

Regional Administrator, Region I
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406
FitzPatrick Nuclear Power Plant

Mr. Peter R. Smith, President
New York State Energy, Research,
and Development Authority
17 Columbia Circle
Albany, NY 12203-6399

Mr. Paul Eddy
New York State Dept. of Public Service
3 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12223-1350

Supervisor
Town of Scriba
Route 8, Box 382
Oswego, NY 13126

Mr. James H. Snizek
BWR SRC Consultant
5486 Nithsdale Drive
Salisbury, MD 21801-2490

Mr. Michael D. Lyster
BWR SRC Consultant
5931 Barclay Lane
Naples, FL 34110-7306

Mr. Garrett D. Edwards
814 Waverly Road
Kennett Square, PA 19348

Mr. Rick Plasse
Project Manager, License Renewal
Entergy Nuclear Operations, Inc.
James A. Fitzpatrick Nuclear Power Plant
P.O. Box 110
Lycoming, NY 13093

Mr. James Ross
Nuclear Energy Institute
1776 I Street, N.W. Suite 400
Washington, DC 20006-3708

Mr. Randolph Bateman
Mayor of Oswego, NY (Acting)
13 West Oneida Street
Oswego, NY 13126

Ms. Mary Bennett
Penfield Library
SUNY-Oswego
7060 State Route 104
Oswego, NY 13126

Ms. Carol Ferlito
Oswego Public Library
140-142 East Second Street
Oswego, NY 13126