

June 12, 2012

Mr. Clint Riley, Project Lead
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, PA 16801-4850

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION AND PARTICIPATION IN THE
SUPPLEMENTAL SCOPING PROCESS REGARDING THE REVISED SITE
LAYOUT FOR THE BELL BEND NUCLEAR POWER PLANT COMBINED
LICENSE APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Mr. Riley:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff is reviewing a revised environmental report (ER) submitted on March 30, 2012, by PPL Bell Bend, LLC (PPL) in support of its initial application for a combined license (COL) for the construction and operation of one new nuclear power plant at its Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant (BBNPP) site near Berwick, Pennsylvania. This revised ER provides detailed information regarding PPL's revised site layout, which was developed to avoid wetland impacts by relocating the power block footprint and other plant components. The revised ER is available through the NRC's Agencywide Document Access Management System (ADAMS) and is accessible at <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html> under the ADAMS accession number ML12145A242. The document is also available on the Internet at <http://www.nrc.gov/reactors/new-reactors/col/bell-bend/documents.html#application>.

As part of the review of the COL application, the NRC is preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) as required by Title 10 of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR) Part 51, the NRC's regulation that implements the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District, which is a cooperating agency with the NRC for the purpose of complying with NEPA, is reviewing a joint permit application (JPA) that was submitted by PPL in June 2011 (and was revised in November). The EIS will document the NRC and USACE staff's evaluation of the impacts from the construction and operation of one new nuclear plant at the BBNPP site. In addition, the NRC and USACE staff's EIS will consider alternatives, including alternative sites. The following four alternative sites that will be evaluated in the EIS: the Montour site located in Derry Township in Montour County, Pennsylvania; the Humboldt site located in Humboldt Industrial Park west of the City of Hazleton in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania; the Seedco site located in Coal Township in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania; and the Martins Creek site located in Warren County, New Jersey, along the Delaware River.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the NRC and USACE are providing the public with an additional opportunity to submit scoping comments on the new information provided by PPL regarding the revised site layout. Please provide any information, comments, or concerns you feel are appropriate on the scope of the review, especially related to the revised site layout during the scoping comment period, which ends on July 16, 2012. Comments should be

submitted either by mail to the Chief, Rulemaking, Announcements, and Directives Branch, Division of Administrative Services, Office of Administration, Mail Stop TWB-05-B01M, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555-0001 or by e-mail to BBNP.COLEIS@nrc.gov. When the NRC and USACE staff completes the draft EIS, a copy will be sent to your office for comment. This letter is also being submitted under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (ESA), and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1934, as amended (FWCA).

On October 10, 2008, PPL submitted its application for a COL pursuant to NRC requirements in 10 CFR Part 52. The NRC staff accepted the application for docketing on December 15, 2008. The NRC and USACE initiated consultation with your office by letter dated January 12, 2009 (ML083460637). In a letter dated July 10, 2009 (ML092020071), you replied by providing a list of rare, threatened, or endangered species that are known to occur in the vicinities of the Bell Bend site and the Montour and Sandy Bend alternative sites (the Sandy Bend site is no longer being considered as an alternative site) along with other wildlife concerns that should be considered in the EIS.

To support the preparation of the EIS and to ensure compliance with Section 7 of the ESA, the NRC and USACE request that your office provide any updated information on Federally-listed, proposed and candidate species, and critical habitat that may be in the vicinity of the BBNPP site, the associated transmission line rights-of-way, and the alternative sites located in Pennsylvania. In addition, please provide any information you consider appropriate under the provisions of the FWCA. Enclosed with this letter are copies of site maps, the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Project Planning and Environmental Review Forms, and the associated maps needed for each form.

The BBNPP project boundary consists of approximately 2,055 acres in Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, approximately 5 miles northeast of Berwick, Pennsylvania, near the west bank of the North Branch Susquehanna River, and it contains the BBNPP site and the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) site. As a result of the revised site layout, the BBNPP site comprises an area of 975 acres within the BBNPP project boundary in an area of open deciduous woodlands interspersed with grasslands, previously cultivated fields, and orchards. The area of disturbance within the BBNPP site is approximately 677 acres. Land use in the immediate vicinity of the site is primarily forested and agricultural. The BBNPP site is located to the west of the SSES site, which has two operating boiling water reactors, Units 1 and 2, that have the capacity to generate 2,270 megawatts of electricity (MW(e)) combined. PPL is proposing to construct and operate an AREVA U.S. EPR reactor with an approximate output of 1,600 MW(e).

PPL has stated there is no need for new transmission lines or corridors to connect the new reactor unit to the existing electrical grid. The existing 500-kilovolt (kV) transmission line is currently being modified to add the Susquehanna-Roseland Interconnection approved by the Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Maryland Regional Transmission Organization. This modification was planned independent of and without consideration of the BBNPP project. On the BBNPP site, planned facilities include one new 500-kV switchyard to transmit power from BBNPP, one new 500-kV transmission system switchyard (Susquehanna 500-kV Yard #2), expansion of the existing Susquehanna 500-kV Yard, and two new 500-kV, 4,260 megavolt-ampere circuits on individual towers connecting the BBNPP substation to the existing SSES

500-kV yard and to the proposed Susquehanna Yard #2. Additionally, the 230-kV transmission lines currently passing through the BBNPP site would be relocated to run to the north of Beach Grove Road in order to provide a buffer from the cooling towers and provide additional areas for the location of structures.

The proposed cooling system consists of a closed-cycle wet cooling system. The system will use two natural draft cooling towers for heat dissipation. An average rate of 23,808 gallons per minute would be withdrawn from the Susquehanna River to make up losses from evaporation, cooling tower drift, and blowdown discharge. Blowdown from the cooling towers would discharge to a common retention basin prior to discharging to the Susquehanna River.

If you have any questions concerning the environmental review of this COL application, please contact Mrs. Laura Quinn-Willingham, Environmental Project Manager, at 301-415-2220 or via e-mail at Laura.Quinn-Willingham@nrc.gov. In her absence, please contact Mr. John Fringer at 301-415-6208 or via e-mail at John.Fringer@nrc.gov.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Anthony H. Hsia, Branch Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-039

Enclosures:
As stated

cc w/o enclosures: See next page

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/RA/

Anthony H. Hsia, Branch Chief
Environmental Projects Branch 2
Division of New Reactor Licensing
Office of New Reactors

Docket No.: 52-039

Enclosures:

As stated

cc w/o enclosures: See next page

DISTRIBUTION:

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ADAMS Accession No.: ML12079A176 *see previous concurrence **via email **NRO-002**

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DATE	04/24/2012	04/30/2012	04/30/2012	03/27/2012	06/12/2012

OFFICIAL RECORD COPY

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(Revised 05/21/2012)

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Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Project Planning & Environmental Review Form

This form provides site information necessary to perform an Environmental Review for special concern species and resources listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resource Conservation Act, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat code or the Pennsylvania Game and Wildlife Code.

Applicant Information

Name: John Fringer

Address: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, MS T-6C32, WASHINGTON, DC 20555

Phone Number: 301-415-6208

Fax Number: 301-415-5399

Contact Person Information - if different from applicant

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Project Information

Project Name: Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant (BBNPP)

Project Location: 5 Mi NE Of Berwick, PA

Municipality: Salem Township County: Luzerne

☒ Attach a copy of a U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 Minute Quadrangle Map with Project Boundaries clearly marked.

U.S.G.S. Quad Name: Berwick

Project Description

Proposed Project Activity (including ALL earth disturbance areas and current conditions)

Construction of one new nuclear power plant adjacent to the existing Susquehanna Steam Electric Station near Berwick, PA. This form provides updated acreage and a figure for the project footprint. RE: #2(below): ON OR ADJACENT TO THE BBNPP SITE: 4 SMALL CREEKS: WALKER RUN AND 3 UNNAMED TRIBUTARIES; 6 SMALL PONDS: FARM POND, JOHNSON'S POND, BEAVER POND, WEST BUILDING POND, & 2 UNNAMED PONDS. OFFSITE: LAKE TOOK-A-WHILE (770 FT. FROM E. SITE BOUNDARY); THE NORTH BRANCH CANAL (<950 FT. FROM E. SITE BOUNDARY); AN UNNAMED TRIBUTARY CONNECTED TO THE SW CORNER OF LAKE TOOK-A-WHILE. THE NORTH BRANCH OF THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IS LESS THAN 250 FT. FROM THE SOUTHERN TIP OF THE BBNPP SITE BOUNDARY.

Total Acres of Property: 2055 Acreage to be Impacted: 677

1. Will the entire project occur in or on an existing building, parking lot, driveway, road, maintained road shoulder, street, runway, paved area, railroad bed, or maintained lawn? Yes ☐ No ☒
2. Are there any waterways or waterbodies (intermittent or perennial rivers, streams, creeks, tributaries, lakes or ponds) in or near the project area, or on the land parcel? If so, how many feet away is the project? Yes ☒ feet No ☐
3. Are wetlands located in or within 300 feet of the project area? Yes ☒ No ☐ If No, is this the result of a wetland delineation?

If you have a "PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt" with potential impacts, please send a receipt copy, this completed form, and a USGS Quad Map to the agency/agencies noted on the receipt. If you are unable to generate a PNDI Receipt because you do not have Internet access, complete this form, attach a USGS Quad Map, and send them to your local DEP or County Conservation District. For review of a "Large Project," please send form and map to all the agencies listed below. See page 2 for more information.

Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section
400 Market St., PO Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105
fax: 717-772-0271

PA Game Commission
Bureau of Land Management
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
fax: 717-787-6957

PA Fish and Boat Commission
Natural Diversity Section
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823
fax 814-359-5175

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Endangered Species Biologist
315 South Allen St., Suite 322
State College, PA 16801
no faxes please

Figure 2.2.5— BBNPP Site 500 kV and 230 kV Regional Circuit Corridors

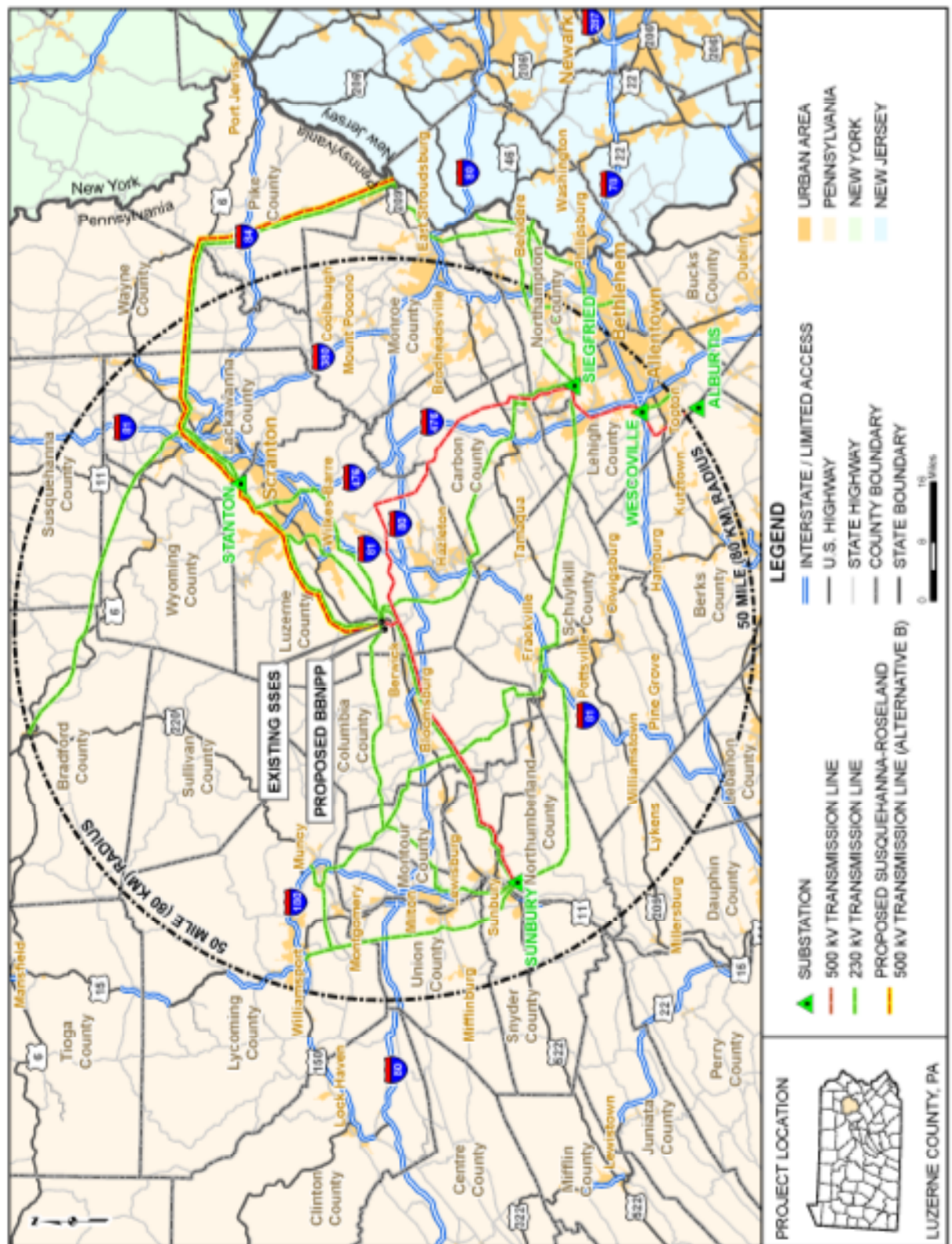
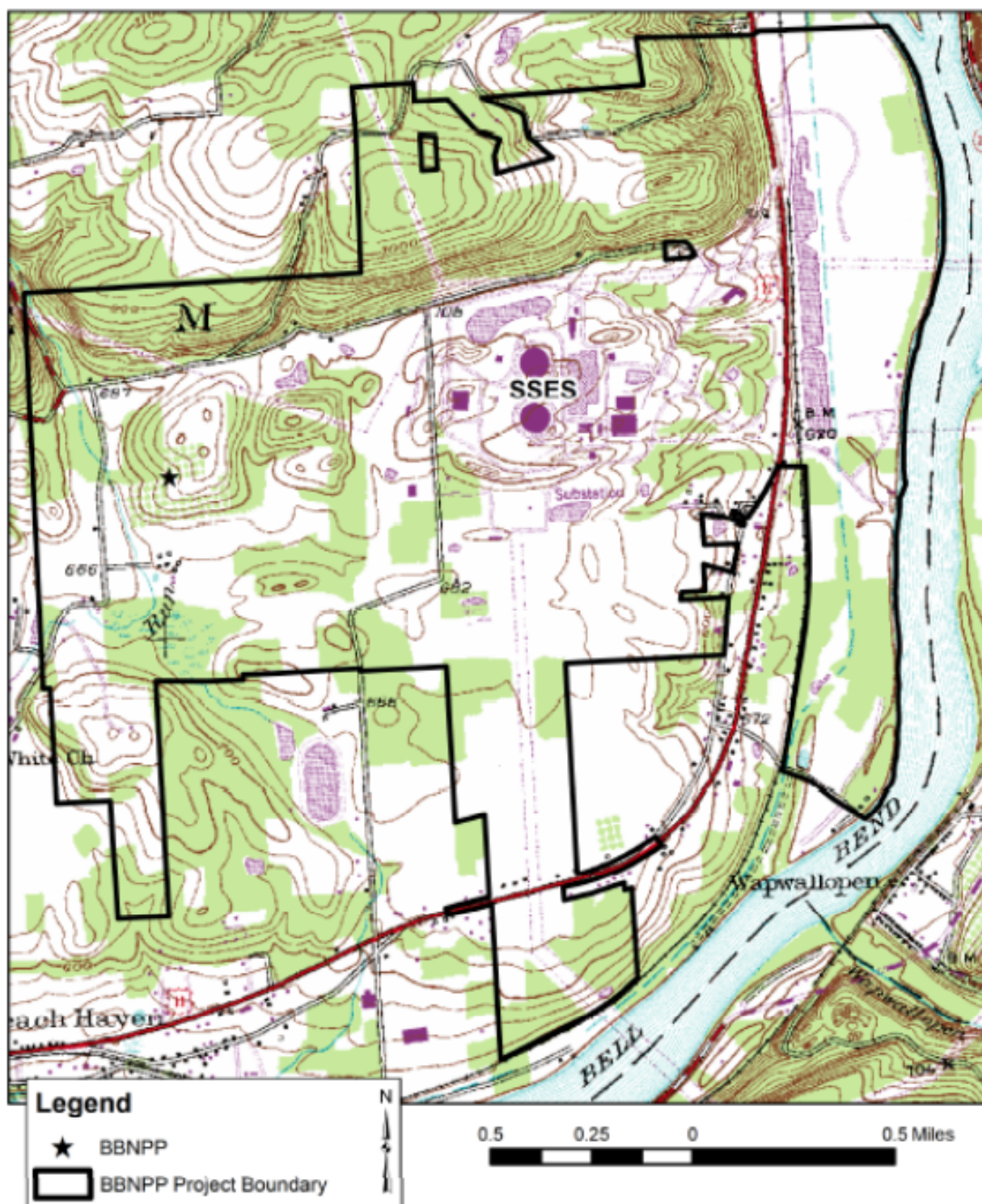


Figure 2.2-3— BBNPP Site Topographic Map





Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Project Planning & Environmental Review Form

This form provides site information necessary to perform an Environmental Review for special concern species and resources listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resource Conservation Act, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat code or the Pennsylvania Game and Wildlife Code.

Applicant Information

Name: John Fringer

Address: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, MS T-6C32, WASHINGTON, DC 20555

Phone Number: 301-415-6208

Fax Number: 301-415-5399

Contact Person Information - if different from applicant

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Project Information

Project Name: Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant - Alternate Site; HUMBOLDT, PA

Project Location: ~5 Mi West Of Hazleton, PA, Along SR 924

Municipality: Hazleton County: Luzerne

☒ Attach a copy of a U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 Minute Quadrangle Map with Project Boundaries clearly marked.

U.S.G.S. Quad Name: Conyngham

Project Description

Proposed Project Activity (including ALL earth disturbance areas and current conditions)

Location is an alternate site for possible construction of one new nuclear power plant on a brownfield site at the Humboldt Industrial Park. RE: #2 (below), there are 5 freshwater ponds with a total acreage of 8 ac onsite. Stony Creek runs through the site and the Humboldt Reservoir is ~500 ft. N. of the site. THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IS ~12.5 MILES N-NW OF THE SITE.

Total Acres of Property: 3,796 Acreage to be Impacted: 420

1. Will the entire project occur in or on an existing building, parking lot, driveway, road, maintained road shoulder, street, runway, paved area, railroad bed, or maintained lawn? Yes ☐ No ☒
2. Are there any waterways or waterbodies (intermittent or perennial rivers, streams, creeks, tributaries, lakes or ponds) in or near the project area, or on the land parcel? If so, how many feet away is the project? Yes ☒ feet No ☐
3. Are wetlands located in or within 300 feet of the project area? Yes ☒ No ☐ If No, is this the result of a wetland delineation?

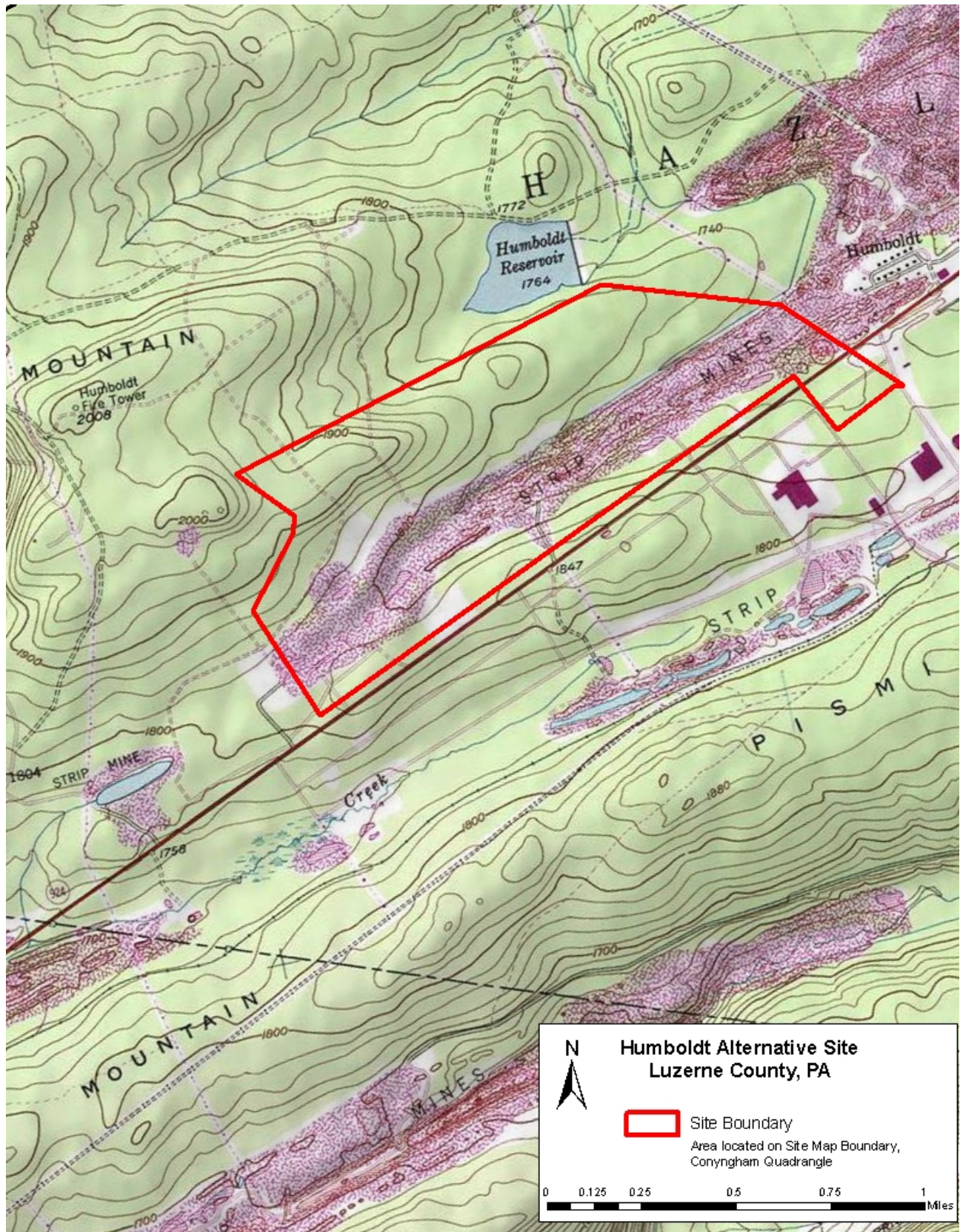
If you have a "PNDI Project Environmental Review Receipt" with potential impacts, please send a receipt copy, this completed form, and a USGS Quad Map to the agency/agencies noted on the receipt. If you are unable to generate a PNDI Receipt because you do not have Internet access, complete this form, attach a USGS Quad Map, and send them to your local DEP or County Conservation District. For review of a "Large Project," please send form and map to all the agencies listed below. See page 2 for more information.

Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
Bureau of Forestry, Ecological Services Section
400 Market St., PO Box 8552
Harrisburg, PA 17105
fax: 717-772-0271

PA Game Commission
Bureau of Land Management
2001 Elmerton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797
fax: 717-787-6957

PA Fish and Boat Commission
Natural Diversity Section
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823
fax 814-359-5175

US Fish and Wildlife Service
Endangered Species Biologist
315 South Allen St., Suite 322
State College, PA 16801
no faxes please





Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Project Planning & Environmental Review Form

This form provides site information necessary to perform an Environmental Review for special concern species and resources listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resource Conservation Act, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat code or the Pennsylvania Game and Wildlife Code.

Applicant Information

Name: John Fringer

Address: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, MS T-6C32, WASHINGTON, DC 20555

Phone Number: 301-415-6208

Fax Number: 301-415-5399

Contact Person Information - if different from applicant

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Project Information

Project Name: Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant-Alternate Site-Seedco

Project Location: 2.5 mi East of Shamokin, PA

Municipality: Coal County: Northumberland

☒ Attach a copy of a U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 Minute Quadrangle Map with Project Boundaries clearly marked.

U.S.G.S. Quad Name: A) Shamokin; B) Mount Carmel

Project Description

Proposed Project Activity (including ALL earth disturbance areas and current conditions)

Location is an alternate site for possible construction of one new nuclear power plant at the Seedco Industrial Park (brownfield site). The area needed for construction is mostly forested and undeveloped. The southern part of the site contains lands formerly used for strip mines. RE: #2 (below), Shamokin Creek and a pond (likely acidic) are ONSITE. THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IS ~15 MI. NW OF THE SITE.

Total Acres of Property: 1,061 Acreage to be Impacted: 420

1. Will the entire project occur in or on an existing building, parking lot, driveway, road, maintained road shoulder, street, runway, paved area, railroad bed, or maintained lawn? Yes ☐ No ☒
2. Are there any waterways or waterbodies (intermittent or perennial rivers, streams, creeks, tributaries, lakes or ponds) in or near the project area, or on the land parcel? If so, how many feet away is the project? Yes ☒ feet No ☐
3. Are wetlands located in or within 300 feet of the project area? Yes ☐ No ☒ If No, is this the result of a wetland delineation? no

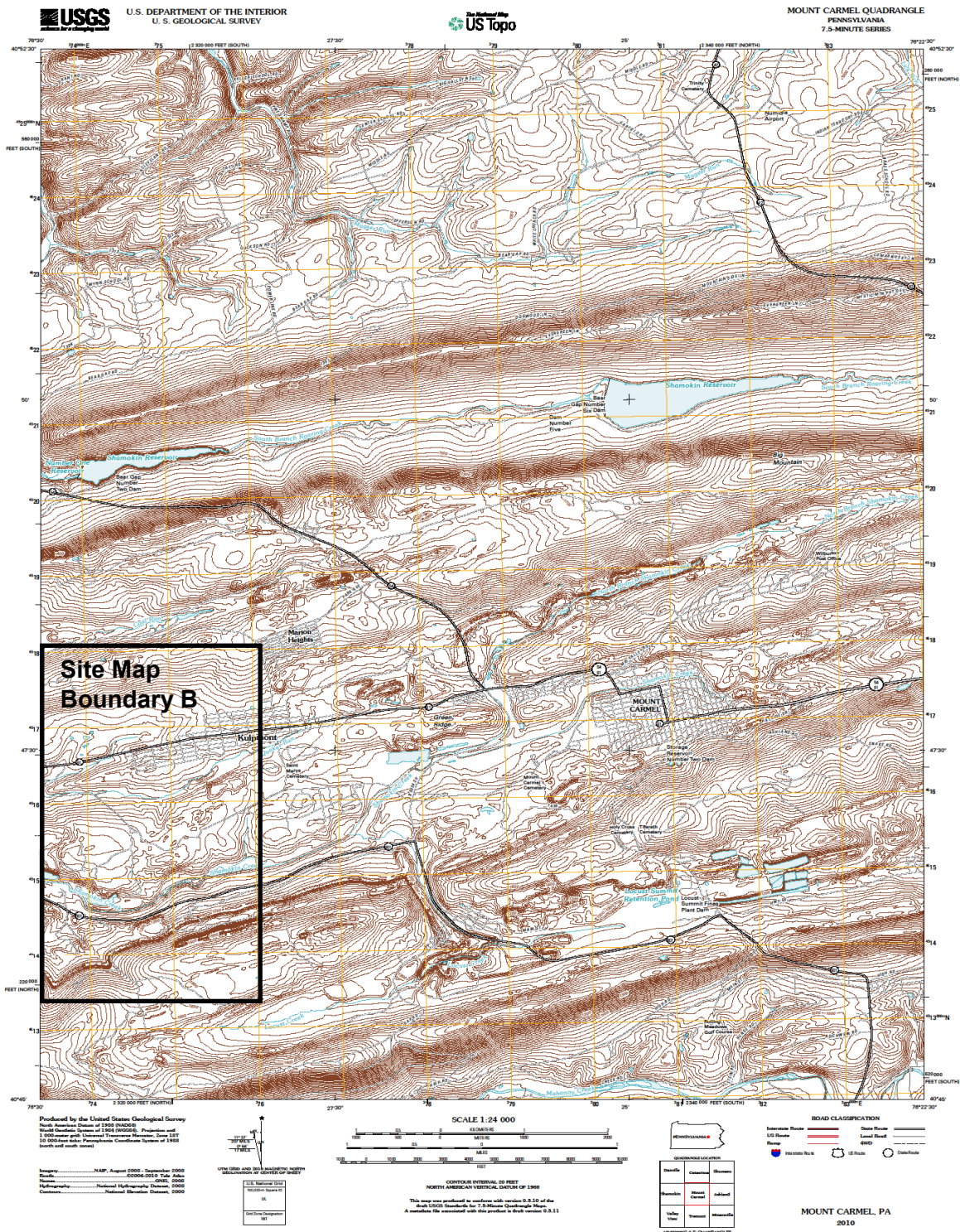
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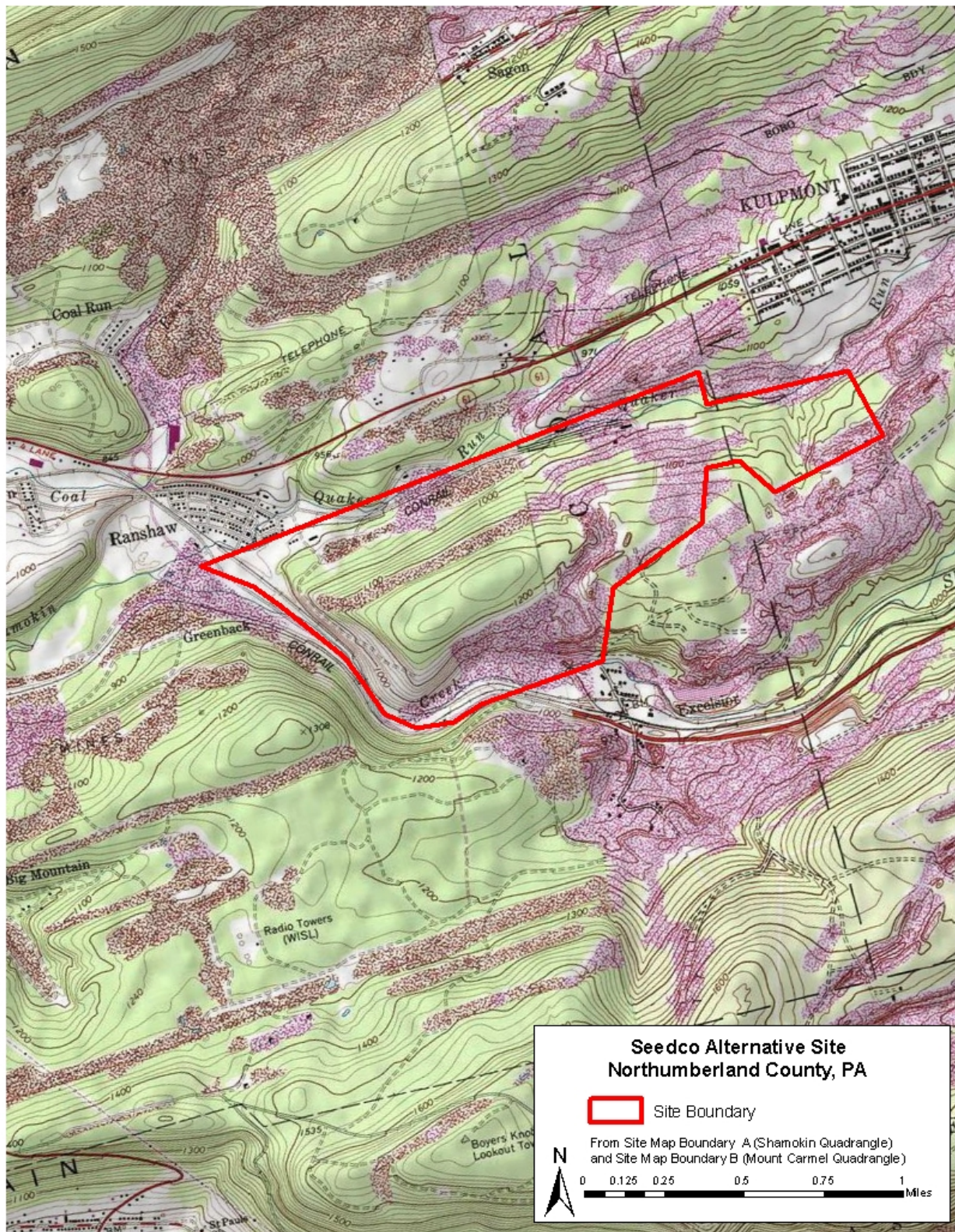
Dept. of Conservation and Natural Resources
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Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Project Planning & Environmental Review Form

This form provides site information necessary to perform an Environmental Review for special concern species and resources listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Wild Resource Conservation Act, the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat code or the Pennsylvania Game and Wildlife Code.

Applicant Information

Name: John Fringer

Address: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, *MST-6C32, WASHINGTON, DC 20555*

Phone Number: 301-415-0491

Fax Number: 301-415-5399

Contact Person Information - if different from applicant

Name:

Address:

Phone Number:

Fax Number:

Project Information

Project Name: Bell Bend Nuclear Power Plant - Alternate Site: *Montour, PA*

Project Location: *2 MI. NE OF WASHINGTONVILLE, PA; NORTH OF MONTOUR COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT*

Municipality: Derry Township County: Montour

☒ Attach a copy of a U.S.G.S. 7 1/2 Minute Quadrangle Map with Project Boundaries clearly marked.

U.S.G.S. Quad Name: Washingtonville

Project Description

Proposed Project Activity (including ALL earth disturbance areas and current conditions)

Location is an alternate site for possible construction of one new nuclear power plant on undeveloped land.

RE: #2(below), the E. Branch Chillisquaque Creek flows through the site; the Middle Branch Chillisquaque Creek flows along the SE boundary of the site. *THE MONTOUR PRESERVE LAKE IS LESS THAN 1500 FT. NW OF THE NW CORNER OF THE SITE. THE WEST BRANCH SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IS ~ 1/4 MI. WEST OF THE SITE.*

Total Acres of Property: 2500 Acreage to be Impacted: 420

1. Will the entire project occur in or on an existing building, parking lot, driveway, road, maintained road shoulder, street, runway, paved area, railroad bed, or maintained lawn? Yes ☐ No ☒
2. Are there any waterways or waterbodies (intermittent or perennial rivers, streams, creeks, tributaries, lakes or ponds) in or near the project area, or on the land parcel? If so, how many feet away is the project? Yes ☒ feet No ☐
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