

June 11, 2012

Carol R. Collier
Executive Director
Delaware River Basin Commission
25 State Police Drive
P.O. Box 7360
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SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE SUPPLEMENTAL SCOPING
PROCESS REGARDING THE REVISED SITE LAYOUT FOR THE BELL BEND
NUCLEAR POWER PLANT COMBINED LICENSE APPLICATION REVIEW

Dear Ms. Collier:

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* (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 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. 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 complete the draft EIS, a copy will be sent to your office for comment.

To support preparation of the EIS, the NRC and USACE request that your office provide any information, comments, or concerns you feel are appropriate on the scope of the review, especially related to the potential impacts to the Delaware River at the Martins Creek alternative site located in New Jersey during the scoping comment period, which ends on July 16, 2012. Enclosed with this letter is a copy of a site map and two quad maps for the Martins Creek site. 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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Accession No.: ML12115A009 *see previous concurrence block **via email ***via phone **NRO-002**

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(Revised 05/21/2012)

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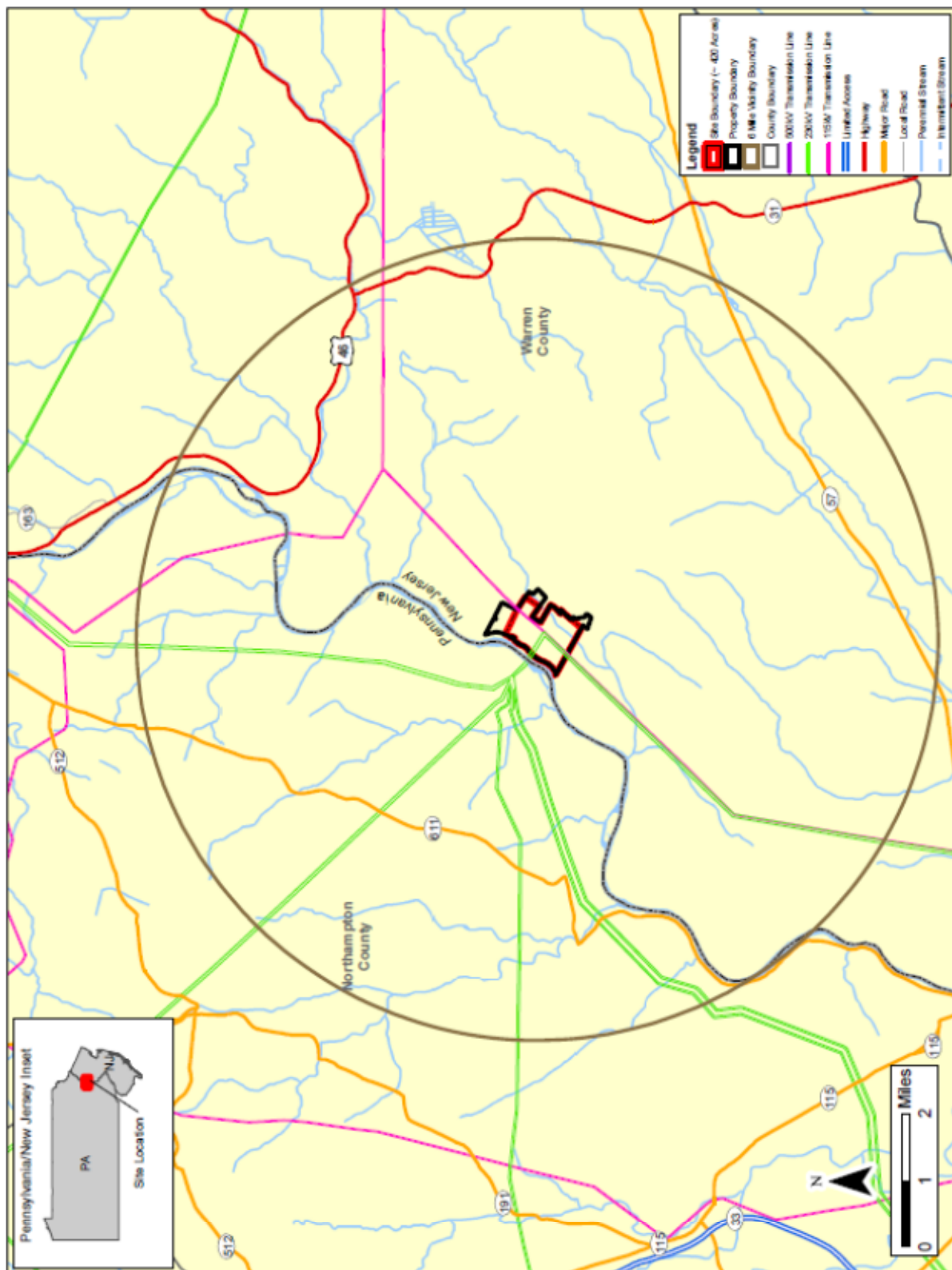
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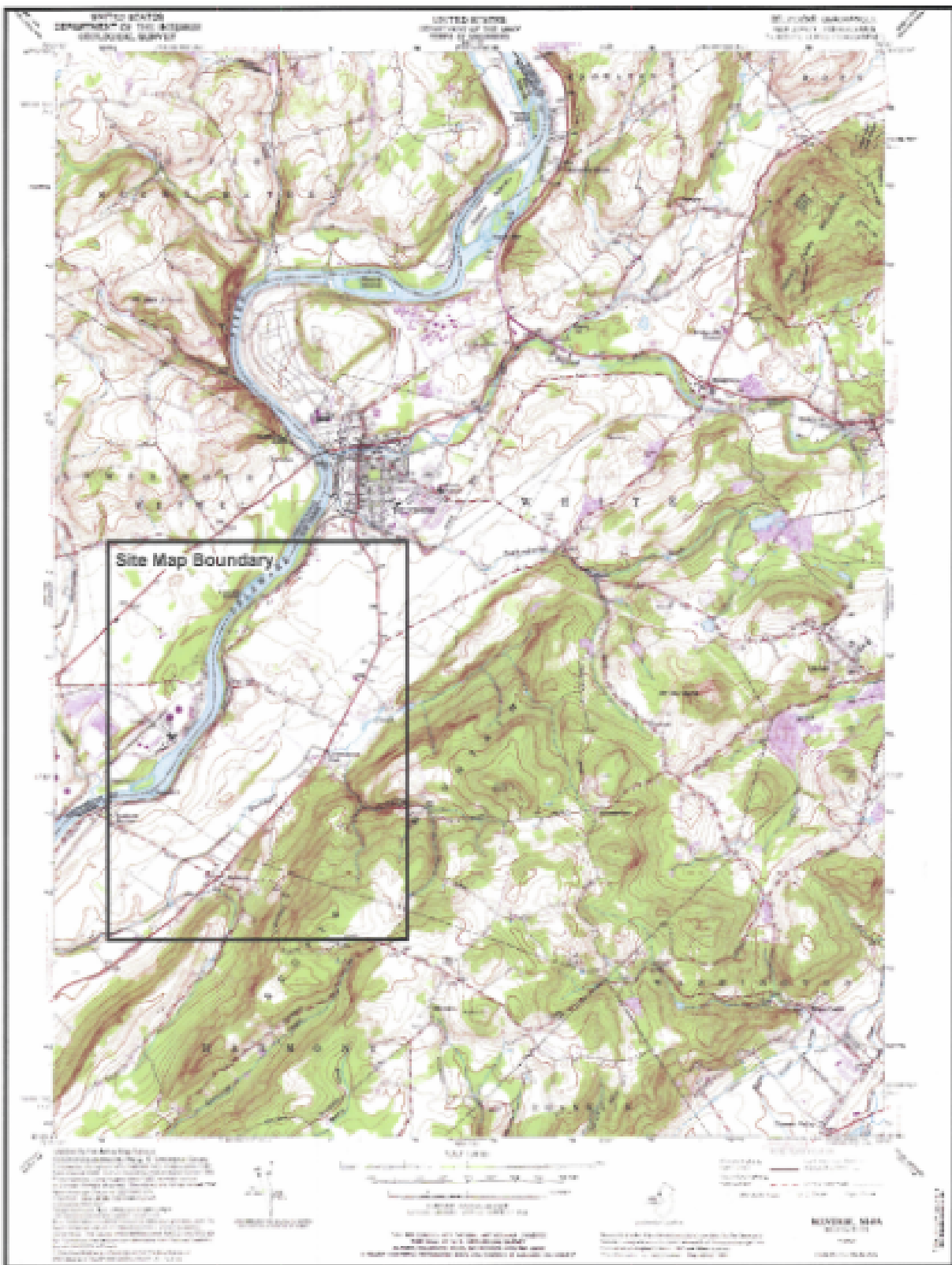
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Enclosure 1



Enclosure 2

