

APPENDIX C
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES CORRESPONDENCE

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Pamela F. Faggert
Vice President and Chief Environmental Officer
5000 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, VA 23060
Phone: 804-273-3467



February 25, 2003

D 17415

Mr. Philip Morrison
Threatened and Endangered Species Coordinator
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
New England Field Office
70 Commercial St., Suite 300
Concord, NH 03301-5208

SUBJECT: Millstone Power Station
Request for Information on Threatened or Endangered Species

Dear Mr. Morrison:

Dominion Nuclear Connecticut is preparing an application for submittal to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to renew the operating licenses for Millstone Units 2 and 3. The current operating licenses for Units 2 and 3 expire on July 31, 2015 and November 25, 2025, respectively. As part of the license renewal process, the NRC requires license applicants to "assess the impact of the proposed action on threatened or endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act" (10CFR51.53). The NRC will request an informal consultation with your office at a later date under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. By contacting you early in the application process, we hope to identify any concerns that may need to be addressed or any information your office may need to help expedite the NRC consultation.

Millstone Power Station (MPS or Millstone) has operated since 1970. Dominion Nuclear Connecticut (Dominion) has been the operator since March 31, 2001, when it purchased ownership interests from a number of companies and took over operation from Northeast Nuclear Energy Company. Millstone Unit 1 operated from 1970 until November 1995, when the unit was permanently shut down, and is not part of the proposed action. Millstone Units 2 and 3 continue to generate electricity.

The Station lies on the north shore of Long Island Sound in Waterford, Connecticut, approximately 15 miles south of the city of Norwich and approximately 20 miles west of Rhode Island (see attached Figure 2-1). Millstone is located on a peninsula that extends into Long Island Sound, with Niantic Bay lying to the west of the peninsula and Jordan Cove lying to the east of the peninsula (Figure 2-3). The MPS site covers approximately 500 acres, 200 acres of which are paved, developed, or industrial in character (generating facilities, office buildings, warehouses). Natural habitats at the MPS site include an old field community, a mesic hardwood forest, coastal marsh, and beaches.

Dominion's purchase of MPS in 2001 did not include the transmission facilities, which remain owned by The Connecticut Light & Power Company (CL&P). CL&P is one of the utilities that sold its ownership interest in MPS to Dominion and is a subsidiary of Northeast Utilities. Four 345-kilovolt transmission lines were originally built to connect Millstone to the regional electric grid. These four transmission lines run northward from the plant in a common corridor (415 to 500 feet wide) for 9.1 miles to Hunts Brook Junction (Figure 3-2). At Hunts Brook, the lines diverge with two lines running north to the Card and Manchester Substations, one line running

east to the Montville Station, and one line running west to the Southington Substation. These four lines share corridors with other previously existing transmission lines.

CL&P manages the approximately 95 miles of transmission corridor associated with the four 345-kV lines. The corridors pass through land that is primarily agricultural or forested. The areas are mostly remote, with relatively low population densities. CL&P plans to maintain these transmission lines, which are integral to the larger transmission system, indefinitely and irrespective of whether MPS continues to operate. As noted previously, Dominion Nuclear Connecticut does not own or maintain these transmission lines, and as a result is not involved in vegetation management or wildlife management in the associated rights-of-way.

Two federally listed threatened or endangered terrestrial species, the roseate tern (*Sterna dougalli*) and the bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), are known to be seen in the vicinity of MPS. Small numbers of roseate terns reportedly use Fox Island (actually a peninsula, in the southeast corner of the site) at MPS as a staging area or stopover during fall migrations while en route to wintering areas in the West Indies and Latin America. Fox Island is treated as a tern sanctuary in the fall, with access strictly controlled. Bald eagles have been observed in winter foraging on the Niantic River, several miles northwest of the MPS site. A bald eagle has been reported to have been observed by employees near the MPS site on a couple of occasions during the last several years.

A number of listed marine species (including 3 great whales and 5 sea turtles) are known to use Long Island Sound at certain times of the year, but none of these species is believed to regularly forage, feed, rest, or reproduce in the shallow waters adjacent to MPS. Federally-listed whales known to migrate along the mid-Atlantic U.S. coast include the right whale (*Baleana glacialis*), finback whale (*Baleanoptera physalus*), and humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangidae*). These great whales pass south of Long Island during seasonal migrations and have been observed in Long Island Sound and Block Island Sound. Five sea turtle species (loggerhead [*Caretta caretta*], green [*Chelonia mydas*], leatherback [*Dermochelys coriacea*], hawksbill [*Eretmochelys imbricata*], and Kemp's ridley [*Lepidochelys kempi*]) inhabit waters along the mid-Atlantic coast, but sightings are uncommon and limited for the most part to sub-adult "wanderers." Young sea turtles are occasionally observed in Long Island Sound and are sometimes stranded on the north shore of Long Island in New York waters, but none have been stranded in the immediate vicinity of MPS.

Because whales do not move into the shallow waters immediately offshore of MPS, they are not affected by operation of the MPS cooling water intake system or by the station's discharge. No sea turtles have been observed by MPS personnel (or any other reported sources of which we are aware) in the immediate vicinity of the station (although they are occasionally observed well offshore in Long Island Sound). There are no records of sea turtles congregating in the area of the MPS discharge, and no indication that the thermal effluent has disrupted normal seasonal movement or migration of turtles.

The shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) is both federally- and Connecticut-listed as endangered. In Connecticut, it can be found in the lower Connecticut River to Long Island Sound. However, in the area around MPS, the shortnose sturgeon has neither been captured during sampling at or near the site nor observed by MPS personnel in the area.

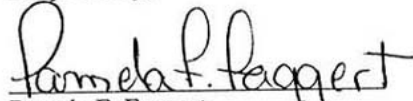
Dominion is committed to the conservation of natural habitats and protected species, and believes that operation of the Station since 1970 has not had an adverse environmental impact on any threatened or endangered species. No additional disturbance is anticipated in support of license

renewal beyond some limited dredging that might be necessary in the areas of the plant intake and discharge. As a consequence, we believe that operation of Millstone over the license renewal period (an additional 20 years) would not adversely affect any threatened or endangered species.

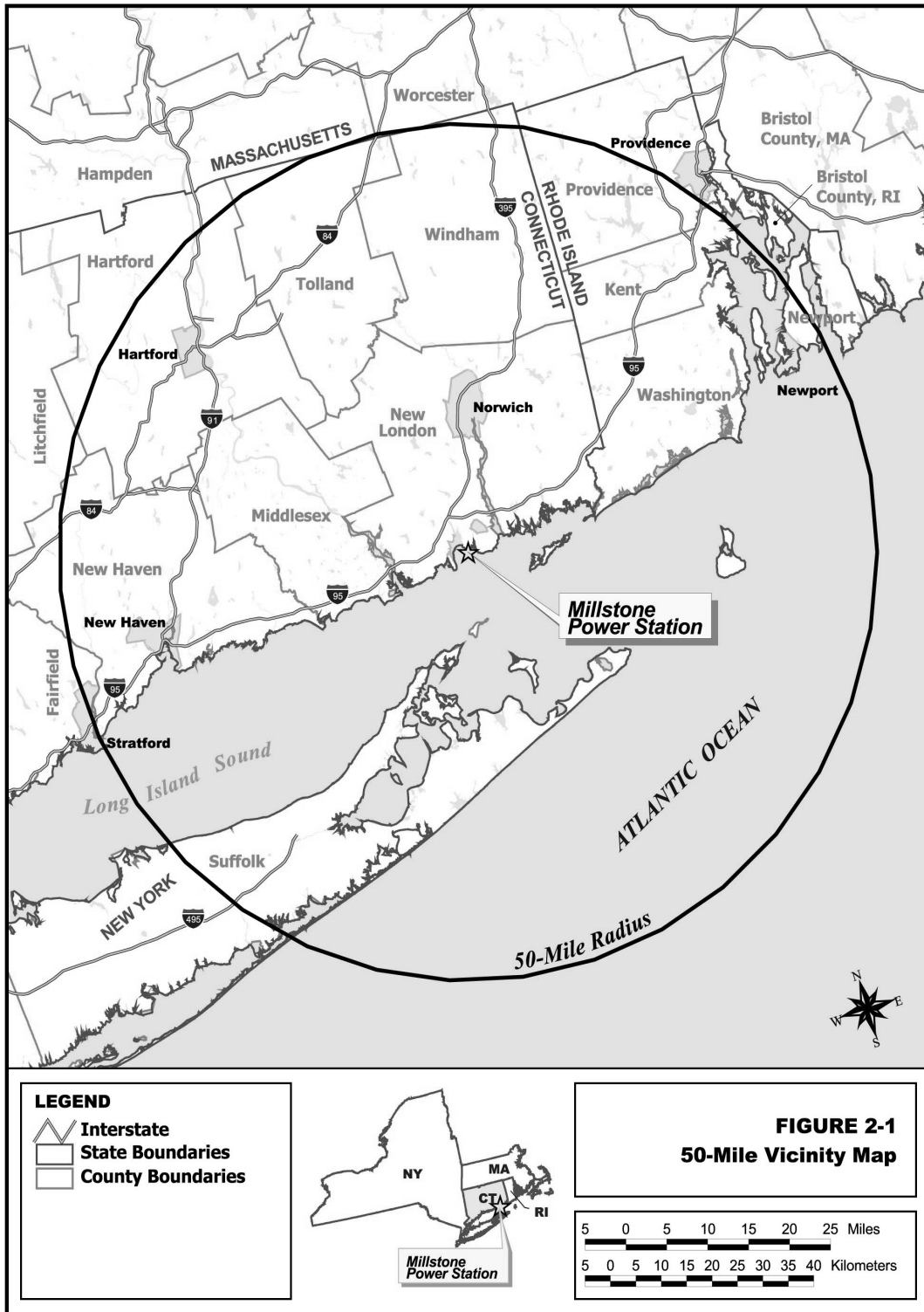
We would appreciate your providing us, by July 31, 2003, with any information you may have about any threatened or endangered species or ecologically significant habitats that may exist on the 500-acre Millstone Power Station site or along associated transmission corridors. We will include a copy of this letter and your response in the license renewal application that we submit to the NRC.

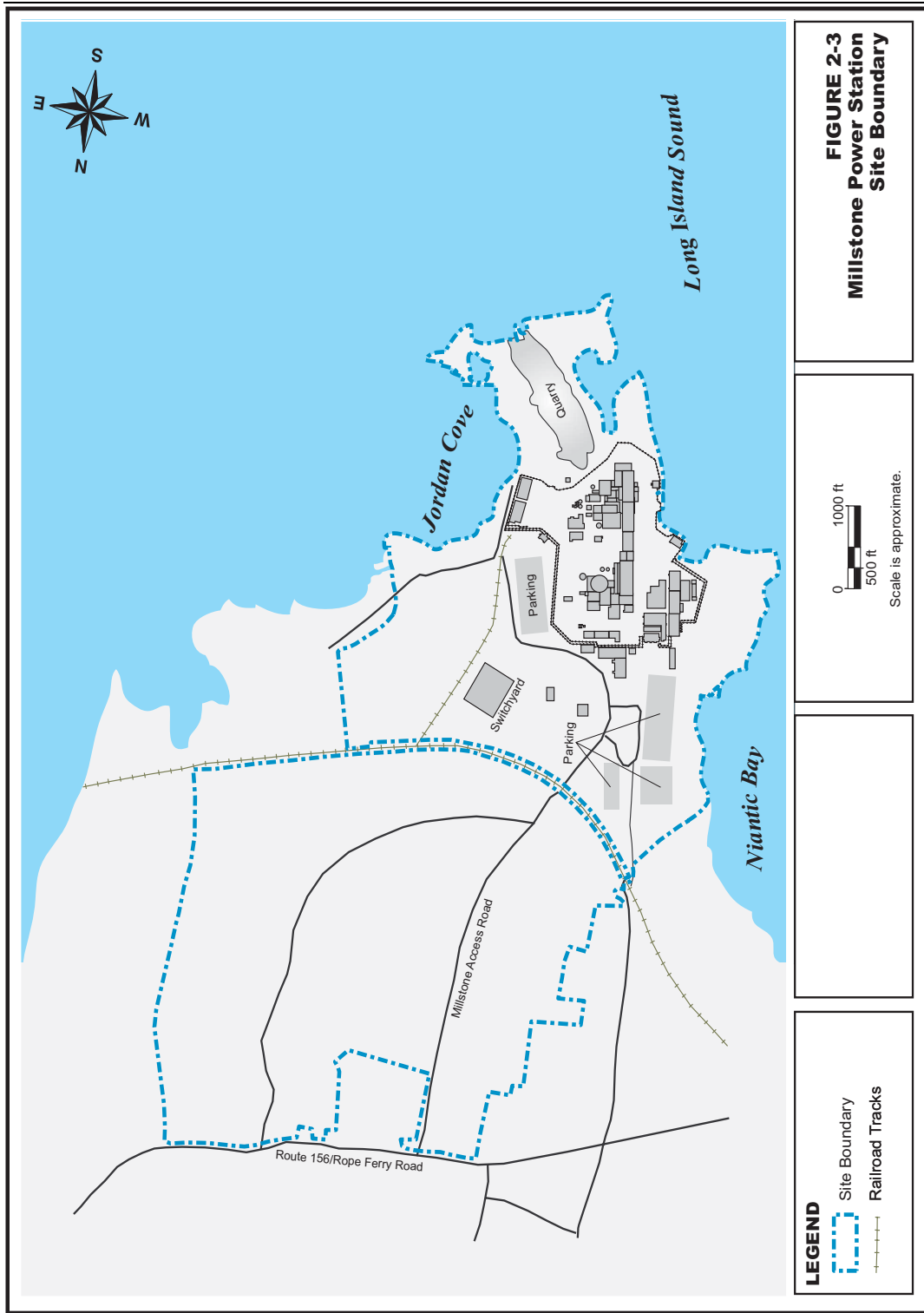
Please contact Mr. Richard Gallagher at 860-447-1791, extension 3876, if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Respectfully,


Pamela F. Faggert




Enclosure: Figure 2-1, 50-Mile Vicinity Map
Figure 2-3, Site Boundary
Figure 3-2, Transmission Line Map







LEGEND

-  Transmission Line
-  State Boundaries
-  County Boundaries

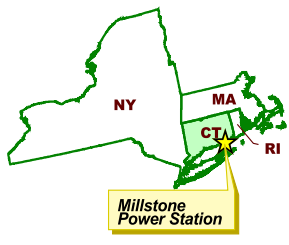


FIGURE 3-2
Transmission Line Map

5 0 5 10 15 20 25 Miles

5 0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35 40 Kilometers

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United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

New England Field Office

70 Commercial Street, Suite 300
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-5087

Received

2003 EP&C

March 28, 2003

Pamela Faggert
Dominion
5000 Dominion Boulevard
Glen Allen, Virginia 23060

Dear Ms. Faggert:

This responds to your February 25, 2003 letter regarding environmental planning and Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance for the relicensing of the Millstone Power Station in Waterford, Connecticut. The facility is located on about 500 acres of land on the north shore of Long Island Sound. As noted in your February 25, 2003 letter, about 200 acres at the Millstone site are developed and the remaining land consists of old field, mesic hardwood forest, coastal marsh and beach habitats.

Based on the best information currently available to us, the only federally-threatened and endangered species under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that are known or potentially occur in the project area include the threatened bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) and the endangered roseate tern (*Sterna dougallii*). Bald eagle occurrence at the Millstone site is limited to non-breeding individuals that are either transient or seasonally present during winter. Similarly, use of the Millstone site by small numbers of roseate terns is seasonal and appears limited to birds staging in the area of Fox Island prior to fall migration. No critical habitat has been designated for either of these species in Connecticut.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently evaluating the status of the New England cottontail (*Sylvilagus transitionalis*) for possible addition to the federal threatened and endangered species list. The cottontail was the subject of a "listing petition" from the environmental community pursuant to section 4 of the ESA.

The New England cottontail was once widespread in New England and occurred throughout Connecticut. For habitat, it requires the dense cover of regenerating forests, beaver flowages or shrub thickets, where both food and cover are found in close proximity. The New England cottontail is presently known to occur in 19 or 20 Connecticut towns [T. Goodie, M. Gregonis

-2-


and H. Kilpatrick, in litt., August 2002, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP)], and the CTDEP is continuing efforts to determine its current distribution in the state. The Service is presently preparing a 90-day petition finding for this species and anticipates that a 12-month status review will be required to fully evaluate its candidacy for the endangered species list.

While the CTDEP is attempting to determine the distribution of the New England cottontail in Connecticut, it is unlikely that any directed surveys have occurred at the Millstone site. Brushy old fields, mesic forests (with a thick understory) and coastal marsh habitats may support this animal. In light of the above, we strongly recommend that the presence/absence of the New England cottontail be determined for the natural areas within the Millstone Power Station. The cottontail is a species of significant conservation concern and may in the near future be a candidate for threatened or endangered species listing.

We look forward to the opportunity for further consultation with you regarding these species as the relicensing process proceeds. Questions regarding this letter may be directed to me at 603-223-2541. For site-specific information on the occurrence of the bald eagle and roseate tern in Connecticut, please contact Julie Victoria of the CTDEP and for information on the New England cottontail in Connecticut contact Michael Gregonis, CTDEP, at 860-642-7239.

Sincerely,



 Michael Amaral
Sr. Endangered Species Specialist
New England Field Office

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Pamela F. Faggert
Vice President and Chief Environmental Officer
5000 Dominion Boulevard, Glen Allen, VA 23060
Phone: 804-273-3167

February 25, 2003

D17416

Mr. Christopher Mantzaris
Asst. Regional Administrator for Protected Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service
Northeast Regional Office
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

SUBJECT: Millstone Power Station
Request for Information on Threatened or Endangered Species

Dear Mr. Mantzaris:

Dominion Nuclear Connecticut is preparing an application for submittal to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to renew the operating licenses for Millstone Units 2 and 3. The current operating licenses for Units 2 and 3 expire on July 31, 2015 and November 25, 2025, respectively. As part of the license renewal process, the NRC requires license applicants to "assess the impact of the proposed action on threatened or endangered species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act" (10CFR51.53). The NRC will request an informal consultation with your office at a later date under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. By contacting you early in the application process, we hope to identify any concerns that may need to be addressed or any information your office may need to help expedite the NRC consultation.

Millstone Power Station (MPS or Millstone) has operated since 1970. Dominion Nuclear Connecticut (Dominion) has been the operator since March 31, 2001, when it purchased ownership interests from a number of companies and took over operation from Northeast Nuclear Energy Company. Millstone Unit 1 operated from 1970 until November 1995, when the unit was permanently shut down, and is not part of the proposed action. Millstone Units 2 and 3 continue to generate electricity.

The Station lies on the north shore of Long Island Sound in Waterford, Connecticut, approximately 15 miles south of the city of Norwich and approximately 20 miles west of Rhode Island (see attached Figure 2-1). Millstone is located on a peninsula that extends into Long Island Sound, with Niantic Bay lying to the west of the peninsula and Jordan Cove lying to the east of the peninsula (Figure 2-3). The tip of the peninsula is known as Millstone Point.

Millstone Unit 2, which began commercial operation in 1975, is a two-loop pressurized water reactor with a net output of 870 megawatts-electric. Millstone Unit 3, which began commercial operation in 1986, is a four-loop pressurized water reactor with a net output of 1,154 megawatts-electric. Both units draw water from Niantic Bay for once-through cooling and discharge to Long Island Sound by way of an old granite quarry on the MPS site.

Millstone scientists have monitored the fish communities of Niantic Bay and eastern Long Island Sound since the late 1960s to assess possible impacts of MPS operations. In more than 30 years of monitoring the aquatic populations of eastern Long Island Sound, MPS scientists have never

collected a federally listed threatened or endangered marine species. No listed species have been observed in the immediate vicinity of the MPS intake or discharge.

A number of listed marine species (including 3 great whales and 5 sea turtles) are known to use Long Island Sound at certain times of the year, but none of these species is believed to regularly forage, feed, rest, or reproduce in the shallow waters adjacent to MPS. Federally-listed whales known to migrate along the mid-Atlantic U.S. coast include the right whale (*Baleana glacialis*), finback whale (*Baleoptera physalus*), and humpback whale (*Megaptera novaeangidae*). These great whales pass south of Long Island during seasonal migrations and have been observed in Long Island Sound and Block Island Sound. Five sea turtle species (loggerhead [*Caretta caretta*], green [*Chelonia mydas*], leatherback [*Dermochelys coriacea*], hawksbill [*Eretmochelys imbricata*], and Kemp's ridley [*Lepidochelys kempii*]) inhabit waters along the mid-Atlantic coast, but sightings are uncommon and limited for the most part to sub-adult "wanderers." Young sea turtles are occasionally observed in Long Island Sound and are sometimes stranded on the north shore of Long Island in New York waters, but none have been stranded in the immediate vicinity of MPS.

Because whales do not move into the shallow waters immediately offshore of MPS, they are not affected by operation of the MPS cooling water intake system or by the station's discharge. No sea turtles have been observed by MPS personnel (or any other reported sources of which we are aware) in the immediate vicinity of the station (although they are occasionally observed well offshore in Long Island Sound). There are no records of sea turtles congregating in the area of the MPS discharge, and no indication that the thermal effluent has disrupted normal seasonal movement or migration of turtles.

The shortnose sturgeon (*Acipenser brevirostrum*) is both federally- and Connecticut-listed as endangered. In Connecticut, it can be found in the lower Connecticut River to Long Island Sound. Because it can be found in estuaries, it could conceivably be found in the Sound itself; however, it has never been captured during sampling at or near the site, nor has it been observed by MPS personnel in the area.

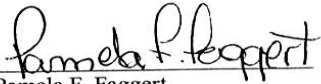
Dominion is committed to the conservation of natural habitats and protected species, and expects that operation of the Station through the license renewal period (an additional 20 years) would not adversely affect any listed marine species. No additional disturbance is anticipated in support of license renewal, beyond some limited dredging that might be necessary in the area of the plant intake and discharge. Dominion would obtain the necessary approvals and permits (if required) from the agencies that regulate these activities before dredging.

Based on the above, we request your concurrence with our determination that license renewal would have no effect on threatened or endangered marine species (including candidate species and species proposed for listing) and that formal consultation is not necessary.

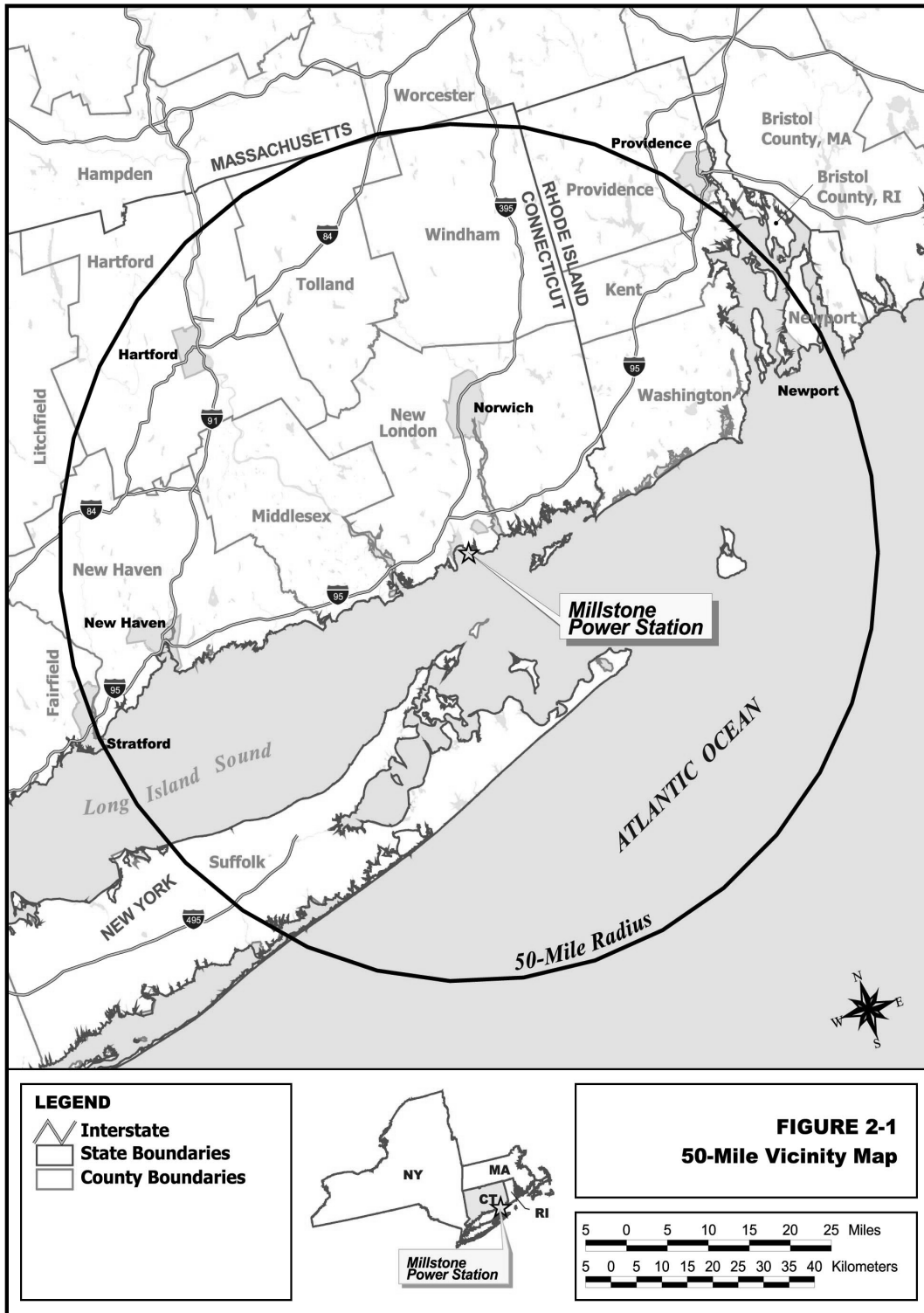
After your review, we would appreciate you sending a letter, by July 31, 2003, identifying any concerns you may have about any listed species in the area or confirming Dominion's conclusion that operation of MPS over the license renewal term would have no effect on any threatened or endangered species under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service. Dominion 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 MPS license renewal application.

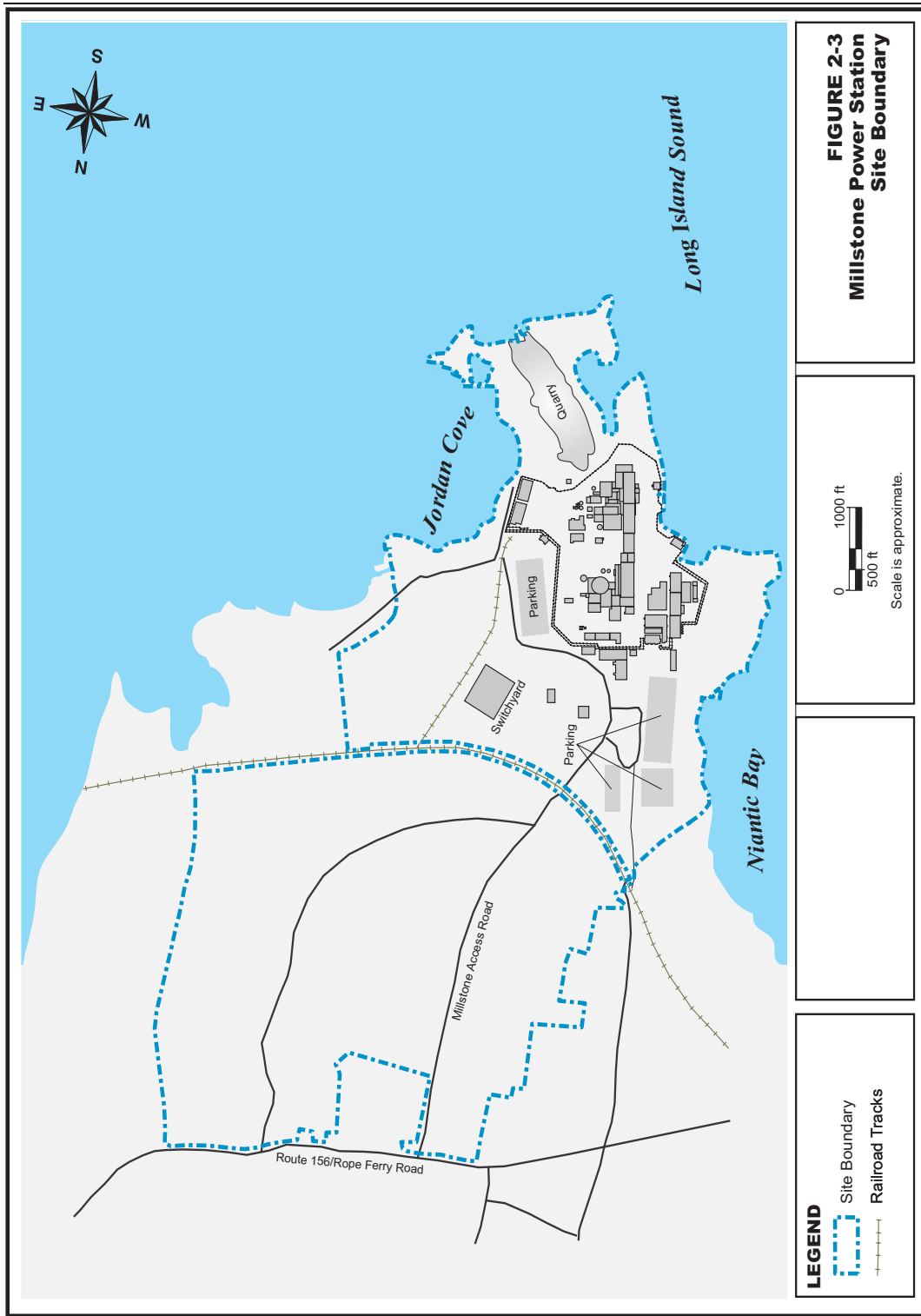
Please contact Mr. Richard Gallagher at 860-447-1791, extension 3876, if you have any questions or require any additional information.

Respectfully,

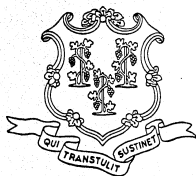

Pamela F. Faggert

Enclosure: Figure 2-1, 50-Mile Vicinity Map
Figure 2-3, Site Boundary





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STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

ENVIRONMENTAL & GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION CENTER
79 Elm Street, Store Level
Hartford, CT 06106
Natural Diversity Data Base



July 23, 2002

Mike Whitten
Tetra Tech NUS, Inc.
900 Trail Ridge Road
Aiken, NC 29803-5297

re: Millstone Power Station (License
Renewal)

Dear Mr. Whitten:

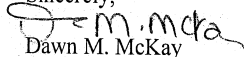
Thank you for your recent letter requesting information on sensitive species in the area of Millstone Power Station and within one mile of the 95 miles of Transmission Corridors in Connecticut. The map you included in your request shows the power station and the corridors with locations of sensitive species. I assume this information was obtained in a digital fashion from our office. There is no date on the map you provided with your letter. This is an important point because our information is constantly updated and it is critical to use current data in the environmental review process. I have added your name to our mailing list and you will be notified when new information is available. If you require further assistance with obtaining Natural Diversity Data Base information in a digital format, please call Karen Zyko (DEP-EGIC; 860-424-3378).

As I indicated to you in our phone conversation, if particular projects are proposed in areas identified by shaded buffers, please submit the details on a Review Request Form, attach a map of the area where the project will occur and I will offer assistance with regards to sensitive species. Please allow several weeks for this process because often several people in our office, with different expertise, may help conduct the review. Since there are no particular projects proposed at this time, we have determined that the actual "license renewal" for the power station does not conflict with any state-listed species.

Natural Diversity Data Base information includes all information regarding critical biological resources available to us at the time of the request. This information is a compilation of data collected over the years by the Natural Resources Center's Geological and Natural History Survey and cooperating units of DEP, private conservation groups and the scientific community. This information is not necessarily the result of comprehensive or site-specific field investigations. Consultations with the Data Base should not be substitutes for on-site surveys required for environmental assessments. Current research projects and new contributors continue to identify additional populations of species and locations of habitats of concern, as well as, enhance existing data. Such new information is incorporated into the Data Base as it becomes available.

Please contact me if you have further questions at 424-3592. Thank you for consulting the Natural Diversity Data Base. Also be advised that this is a preliminary review and not a final determination. A more detailed review may be conducted as part of any subsequent environmental permit applications submitted to DEP for the proposed site.

Sincerely,


Dawn M. McKay
Biologist/Environmental Analyst