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March 24, 2005

Mr. James R. Leigey  
Wildlife Impact Review Coordinator  
Pennsylvania Game Commission  
Bureau of Land Management  
2001 Elmerton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797

**PPL SUSQUEHANNA, LLC  
REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON STATE-LISTED  
SPECIES AND IMPORTANT HABITATS  
(BIRDS AND MAMMALS)  
LICREN ER 101013  
PLR-051**

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Dear Mr. Leigey:

PPL Susquehanna, LLC (PPL Susquehanna) is preparing an application to the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to renew the operating licenses for Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) Units 1 and 2. Current operating licenses for the two-unit plant expire in 2022 and 2024. The renewal term would be for an additional 20 years beyond the original license expiration date. 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 the Endangered Species Act" (10 CFR 51.53). The NRC will also 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 issues that we need to address or any information that we should provide to your office to expedite the NRC consultation.

PPL Susquehanna has operated SSES and associated transmission lines since 1982. The facility is located on the west bank of the Susquehanna River in Salem Township, Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, approximately 5 miles northeast of Berwick, Pennsylvania (see attached map).

The Final Environmental Statement (FES) for construction prepared in 1973 by the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission and the FES prepared for operation prepared in 1981 by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission identified three short 230-kilovolt ties in the vicinity of SSES, one longer 230 kilovolt line (Stanton #2), and two longer 500 kilovolt lines (Sunbury #2 and Siegfried) that were built to connect SSES to the electric grid. The three short connections were to provide startup power for SSES from pre-existing 230-kilovolt lines in the immediate vicinity of the plant and to connect the Unit 1 output to the pre-existing 230-kilovolt Susquehanna Switchyard across the Susquehanna River.

After publication of the FES for operation, PPL Susquehanna made several changes in the transmission system. As a result of these system changes, the transmission lines are somewhat different than those described in the FES. Six transmission lines connect the station to the regional grid, and are thus relevant to license renewal. They include:

- Short ties in the SSES vicinity (3) – These three lines (approximately 6.3 total miles) identified in the FES as necessary to connect SSES to the 230-kilovolt electrical system are primarily in areas controlled by SSES and not accessible to the public; however, U.S. Highway 11, Pennsylvania State Highway 239, and other paved roads in the immediate plant vicinity are crossed by the short ties.
- Stanton #2 – This single circuit 230-kilovolt line runs generally northeast from SSES for approximately 30 miles in a 100- to 400-footwide corridor.
- Wescosville – This 500-kilovolt line connects SSES with the Alburdis substation. It runs generally southeast for approximately 76 circuit miles in a corridor ranging from 100 to 350 feet wide.
- Sunbury #2 – This 500-kilovolt line shares a corridor with the pre-existing Sunbury #1 line and runs west-southwest. The corridor is about 325 feet wide and approximately 30 miles long.

In total, for the specific purpose of connecting SSES to the transmission system, PPL Susquehanna has approximately 150 miles of corridor that occupy approximately 3,341 acres. The corridors pass through land that is primarily agricultural or forest land. The areas are mostly remote, with low population densities. The longer lines cross numerous state and U.S. highways. Impact of these corridors on land usage is minimal; farmlands that have corridors passing through them generally continue to be used as farmland.

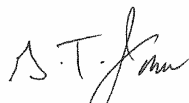
Pennsylvania counties crossed by the transmission lines include Luzerne (the location of SSES), Carbon, Columbia, Lehigh, Northampton, Northumberland, Montour, and Snyder. Based on our direct observations, a preliminary review of PPL Susquehanna records, a review of the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, and a review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service web site, we believe that the following species could occur in the vicinity of Susquehanna Steam Electric Station or its associated transmission lines identified above: 1) Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*), which are federally-listed as endangered, hibernate in Luzerne County; 2) Bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), federally-listed as threatened, nest in Northumberland County; In addition to the Indiana bat, state-listed mammals recorded in counties crossed by the transmission lines are the Eastern woodrat (*Neotoma magister*), the small-footed myotis (*Myotis leibii*), and the Eastern fox squirrel (*Sciurus niger vulpinus*). The Eastern woodrat is known from Carbon and Snyder Counties, and the small-footed myotis has been recorded in Luzerne and Northumberland Counties.

The Susquehanna River and riparian wetlands near the river at SSES are also used by several special-status bird species, especially during autumn and spring migrations. Ospreys (*Pandion haliaetus*) and bald eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) have become relatively common along the river near SSES during migrations and bald eagles winter along the Susquehanna River in Luzerne and Columbia Counties. Peregrine falcons (*Falco peregrinus*), short-eared owls (*Asio flammeus*), American bitterns (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), least bitterns (*Ixobrychus exilis*), and great egrets (*Ardea alba*) are occasionally observed at SSES. The sedge wren (*Cistothorus platensis*), upland sandpiper (*Bartramia longicauda*), and black tern (*Chlidonias niger*) have each been recorded once at SSES. None of the identified bird species is known to nest at SSES. Osprey nests have been recorded in Luzerne, Carbon, and Northampton counties, and the upland sandpiper is known to nest in Northumberland County.

PPL Susquehanna is committed to the conservation of significant natural habitats and protected species, and expects that operation of SSES, including maintenance of the identified transmission lines, through the license renewal period (an additional 20 years) would not adversely affect any listed species. PPL Susquehanna has no plans to alter current operations over the license renewal period. 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.

Please do not hesitate to call Jerry Fields (610) 774-7889 if you have any questions or require any additional information. After your review, we would appreciate receiving your input by April 22, 2005, detailing any concerns you may have about any listed species or critical habitat in the area or confirming PPL Susquehanna's conclusion that operation of SSES over the license renewal term would have no effect on any threatened or endangered species. This will enable us to meet our application preparation schedule. PPL Susquehanna 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 SSES license renewal application.

Sincerely,



George T. Jones

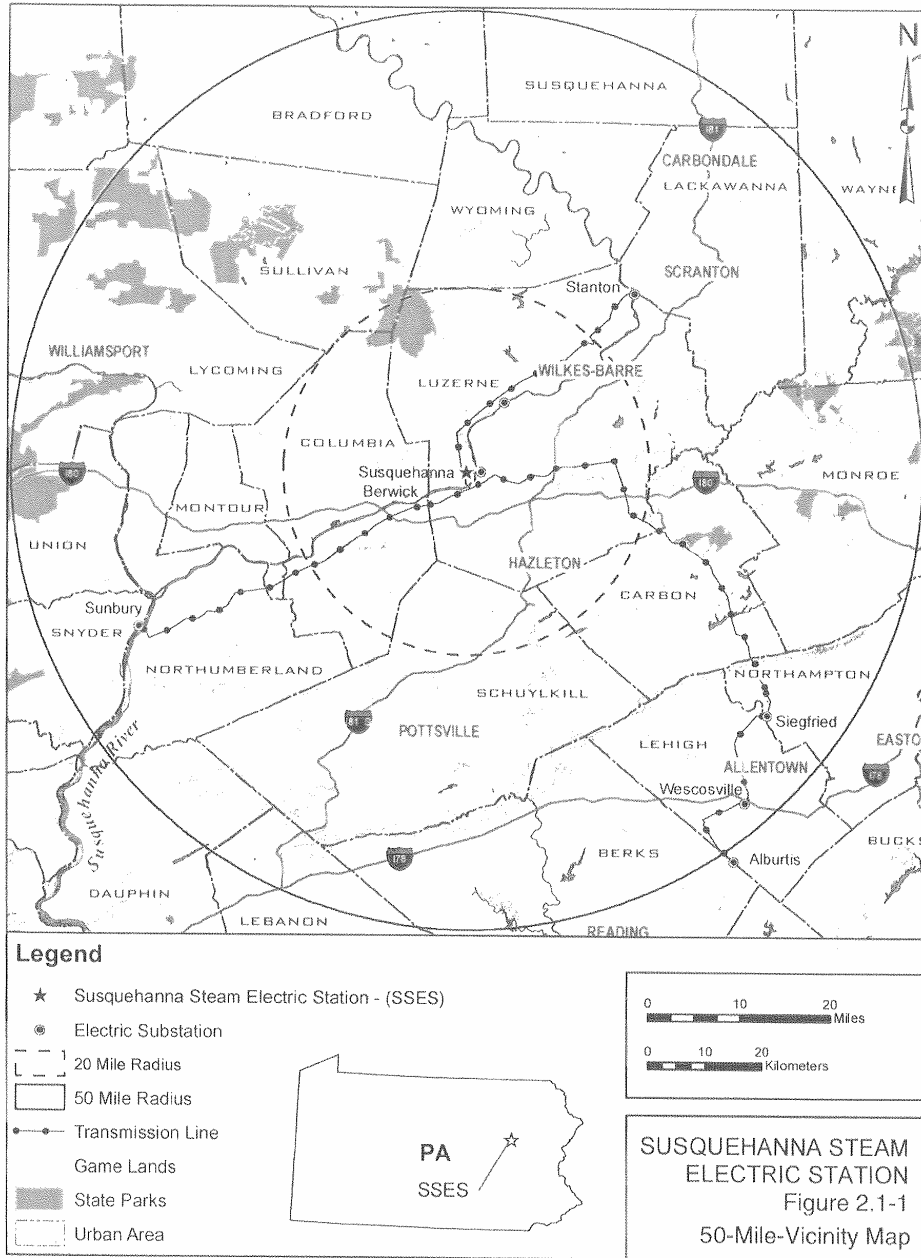
Attachment – Figure 2.1-1, 50-Mile Vicinity Map

Response Requested: YES  by April 22, 2005

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Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 & 2  
License Renewal Application

Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 & 2  
License Renewal Application



May 20, 2005

**TO:** Mr. James R. Leigey, PA Game Commission  
FAX 717-787-6957

**FROM:** Jerry Fields, PPL Susquehanna, LLC  
610-774-7889, FAX 610-774-7782

**RE:** Any concerns from relicensing Susquehanna Steam  
Electric Station, Salem Township, Luzerne County

Dear Mr. Leigey:

As you recommended during our last telephone conversation on May 12, 2005, I am attaching for your review copies of reduced topographic maps that include Susquehanna Steam Electric Station transmission line routes. As PPL stated in our March 24, 2005 letter, we are relicensing the station and our environmental assessment shows that there should be no effect on any threatened or endangered species over the 20-year renewal term. There will be no refurbishment of the station and there are no plans for additional transmission lines.

Also, attached for your use is a table listing routes of the three transmission lines leaving the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station to their final destination substations. The lines are Sunbury – Susquehanna #2, Susquehanna – Stanton, and Susquehanna - Wescosville. The Susquehanna – Wescosville line actually continues on to Alburdis.

If you have any additional questions or comments please give me a call.

Sincerely,



Jerome S. Fields

**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION**

**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION  
TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTES**

<b>7.5 MINUTE TOPO</b>	<b>SUNBURY-SUSQUEHANNA # 2 ROUTE</b>
Berwick	Starts on south side of Susq. SES and goes south with Susquehanna-Wescosville line and crosses river and splits. Next, this line travels west to just above <sup>45</sup> 43 on left margin of map.
Mifflinville	Starts just above <sup>45</sup> 43 on the right margin and goes southwest to <sup>38</sup> 7 on the lower margin.
Shumans	Starts at <sup>38</sup> 7 on top margin and goes southwest to just below <sup>45</sup> 38 on left margin.
Catawissa	Starts just below <sup>45</sup> 38 on right margin and travels west-southwest to about halfway between <sup>45</sup> 31 and <sup>45</sup> 32 on the left margin.
Danville	Starts halfway between <sup>45</sup> 31 and <sup>45</sup> 32 on the right margin and travels west to <sup>45</sup> 28 on the left margin.
Riverside	Starts just south of <sup>45</sup> 32 on the right margin and goes south southwest between <sup>36</sup> 1 and <sup>36</sup> 2 on the bottom margin.
Treverton	Starts between <sup>36</sup> 1 and <sup>36</sup> 2 on the top margin and goes west to just above <sup>45</sup> 22 on the left margin.
Sunbury	Starts just above <sup>45</sup> 22 on the right margin and goes southwest then northwest into the power plant.

<b>7.5 MINUTE TOPO</b>	<b>SUSQUEHANNA-STANTON ROUTE</b>
Berwick	Starts on north side of station and goes north to just east of <sup>40</sup> 2 on the top margin.
Shickshinny	Starts about halfway between <sup>40</sup> 1 and <sup>40</sup> 3 (there is no <sup>40</sup> 2) on the bottom margin and goes north and then northeast to the word Nanticoke in the right margin between <sup>45</sup> 59 and <sup>45</sup> 61.
Nanticoke	Starts at the word Shickshinny in the left margin between <sup>45</sup> 59 and <sup>45</sup> 61 and goes northeast the top right hand corner of the map 76° 00'/41° 15'.
Wilkes-Barre West	Just touches top left corner at 76° 00'/41° 15'.
Kingston	Starts at bottom left corner at 76° 00'/41° 15' and continues northeast for about 5" and then goes east to St. Vincents and finally, to between <sup>45</sup> 74 and <sup>45</sup> 75 on the right margin between words "West Wyoming".
Pittston	Starts on left margin between <sup>45</sup> 74 and <sup>45</sup> 75 and continues north-northeast to between <sup>43</sup> 1 and <sup>43</sup> 2 on the top margin.
Ransom	Starts just east of <sup>43</sup> 1 on the bottom margin and goes to a substation about 0.5 inches above <sup>43</sup> 3 on the bottom margin.

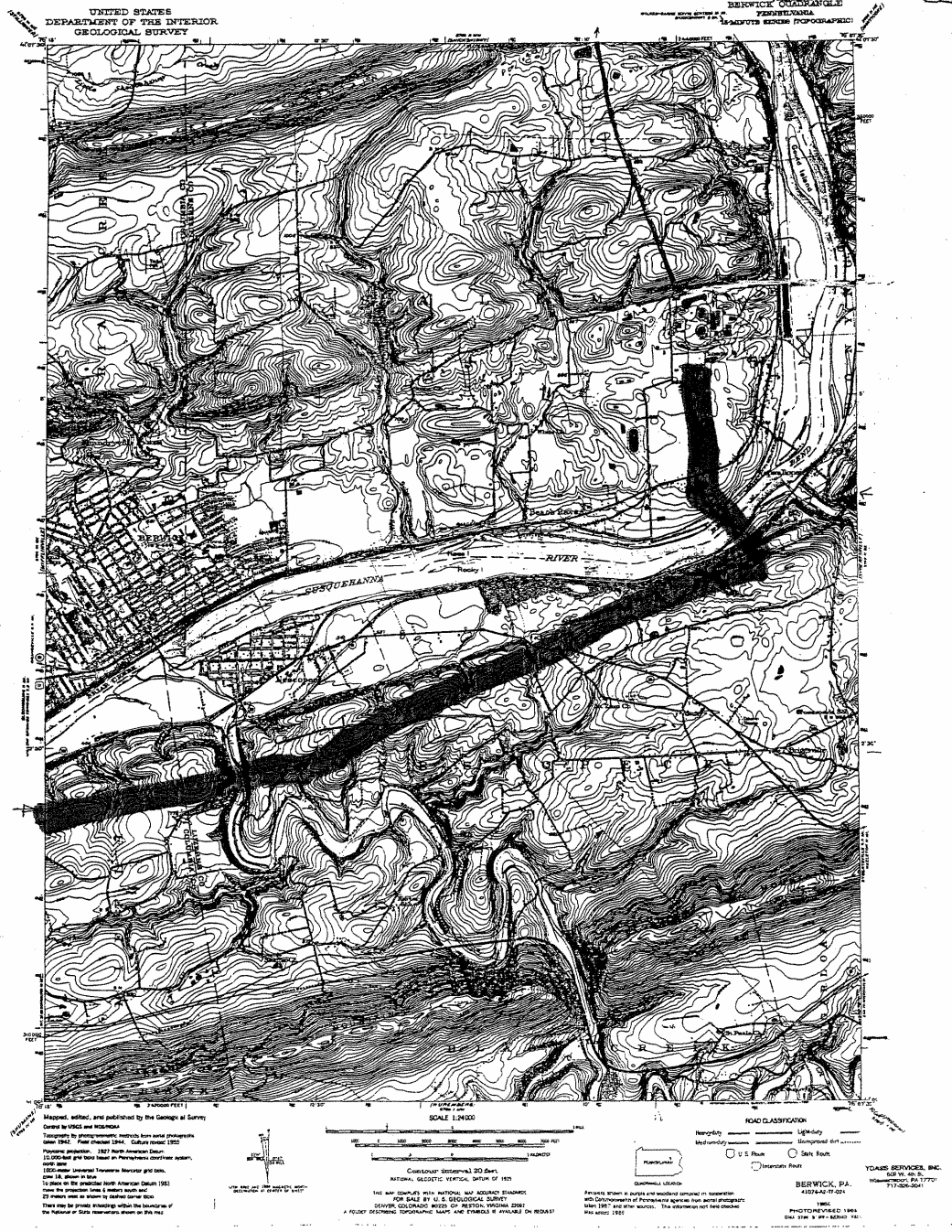
**SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION  
TRANSMISSION LINE ROUTES**

<b>7.5 MINUTE TOPO</b>	<b>SUSQUEHANNA-WESCOSVILLE ROUTE</b>
Berwick	Starts on south side of Susq. SES and goes south with the Sunbury-Susquehanna #2 line and crosses river and splits. Next, this line travels east to just above <sup>45</sup> 47 on right margin of map.
Sybertsville	Starts just above <sup>45</sup> 47 on left margin of map and meanders east to just below <sup>45</sup> 49 on the right margin near Feys Grove.
Freeland	Starts below <sup>45</sup> 49 on the left margin goes northeast near a Rest Area then east to just above <sup>45</sup> 51 on the right margin.
White Haven	Starts just below <sup>45</sup> 51 on the left margin goes east then south and southeast to just above <sup>45</sup> 30 near the bottom right corner of the map.
Hickory Run	Starts in the bottom left hand corner of map below <sup>45</sup> 40 ( <sup>45</sup> 39 not listed) and goes southeast to about halfway between <sup>43</sup> 38 and <sup>43</sup> 39 on the bottom margin.
Christmans	Starts between <sup>43</sup> 38 and <sup>43</sup> 39 on the top margin and goes southeast to just below <sup>43</sup> 31 on the right margin.
Pohopoco Mountain	Starts at <sup>43</sup> 31 on the left margin and goes south-southeast to just west of <sup>45</sup> 50 on the bottom margin.
Palmerton	Starts just west of <sup>45</sup> 50 on the top margin and crosses the map to the southeast corner just east of <sup>45</sup> 56 on the bottom margin.
Cementon	Starts just west of <sup>45</sup> 50 on the top margin then goes south, west and then almost in a semicircle goes south to just west of <sup>45</sup> 52 on the bottom margin.
Allentown West	Starts just west of <sup>45</sup> 52 on the top margin goes south and then west to just below <sup>44</sup> 90 on the left margin.
Topton	Starts just below <sup>44</sup> 90 on the right margin goes southwest then southeast and comes back to the right margin at <sup>44</sup> 85.
Allentown West (again)	Starts at <sup>44</sup> 85 on the left margin goes south to just west of <sup>44</sup> 48 on the bottom margin.
East Greenville	Starts at <sup>44</sup> 48 on the top margin goes southeast for about 5 inches to the substation.

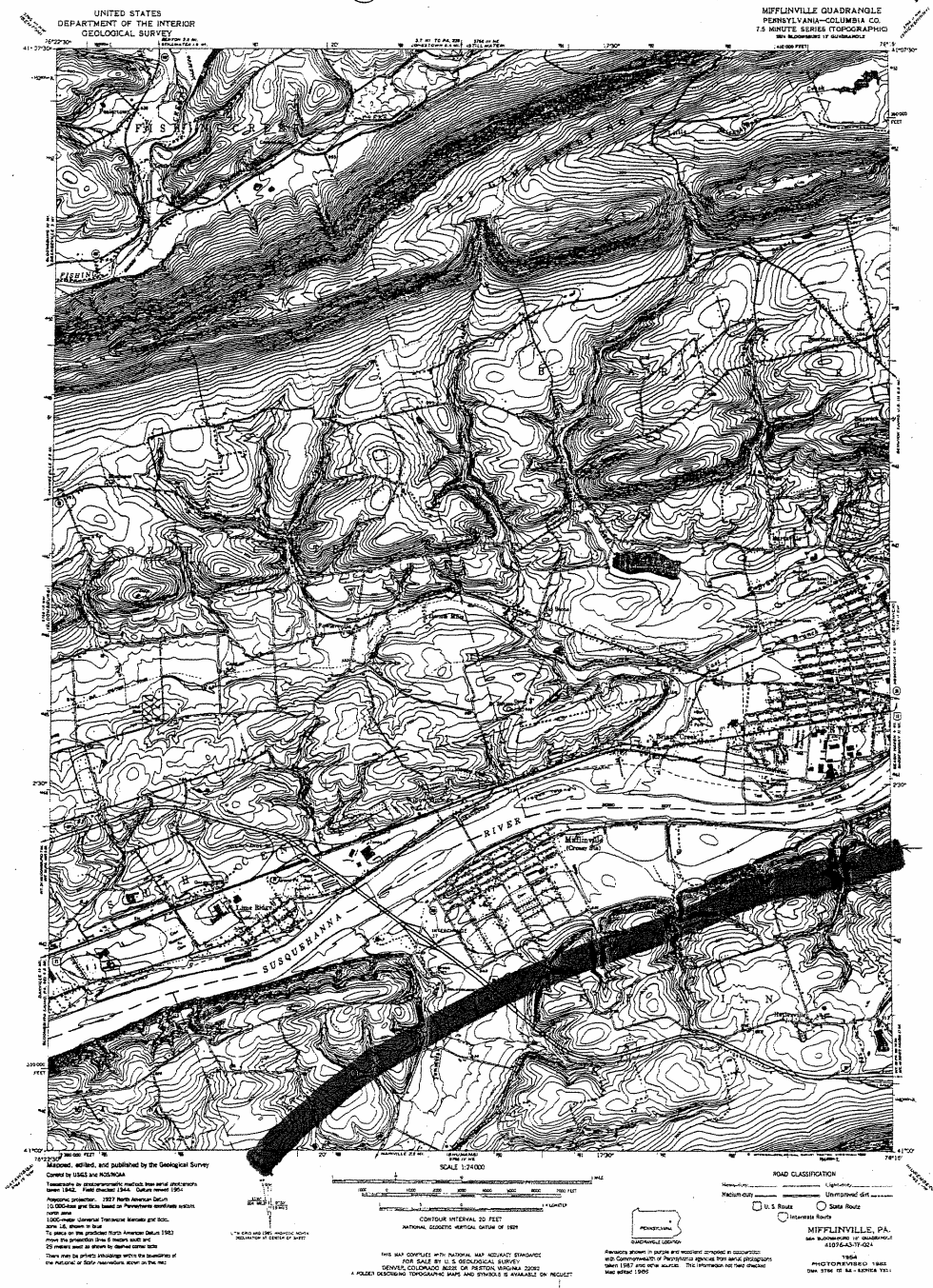


SUNBURY - SUSQ #2

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JUNBURY-SUSQ. # 2 2 of 8



Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 & 2  
License Renewal Application

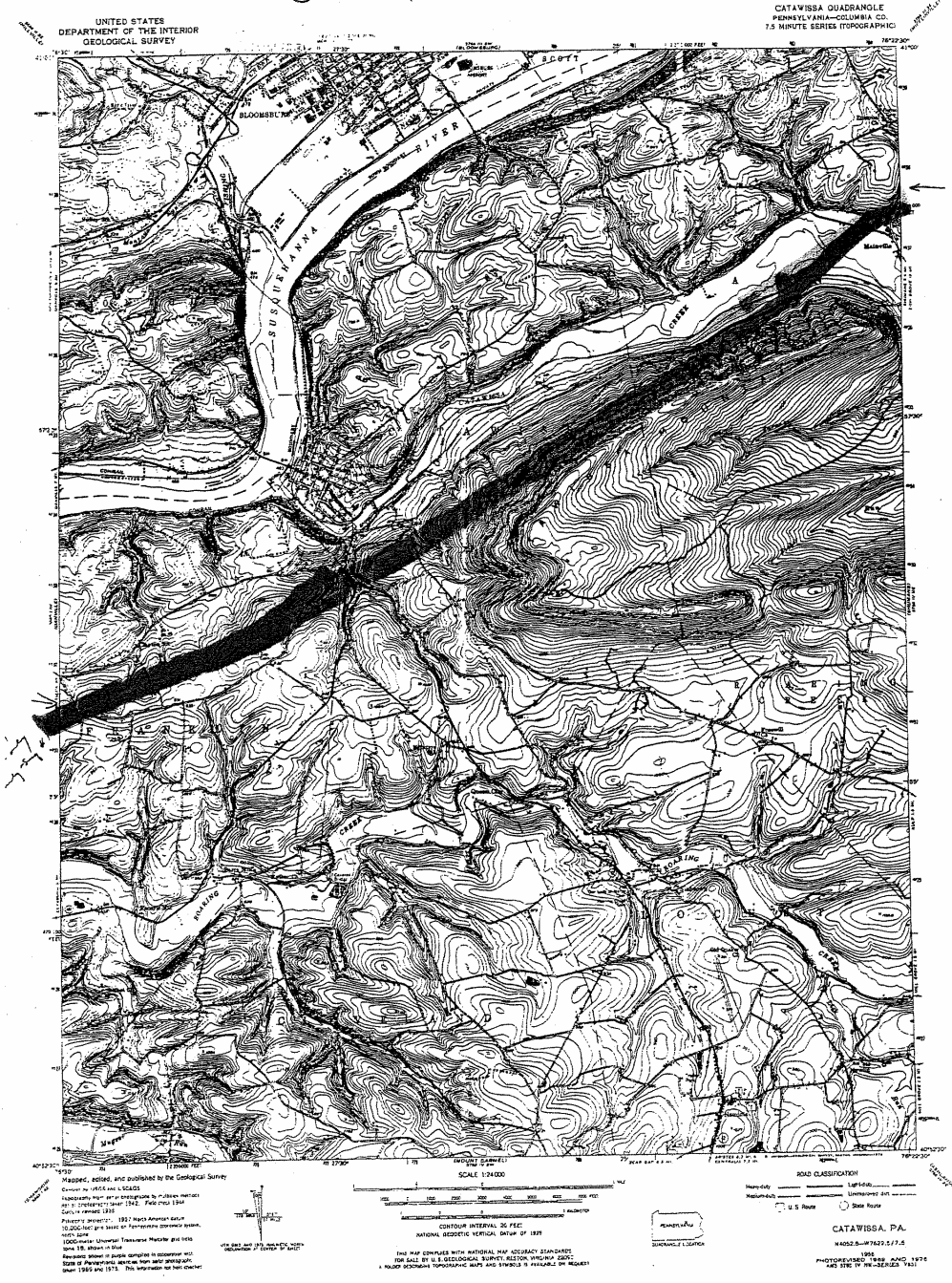
JUNBURY - SUSQ. #2 3 of 8



Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 & 2  
License Renewal Application

SUNBURY - SUSQ. #2

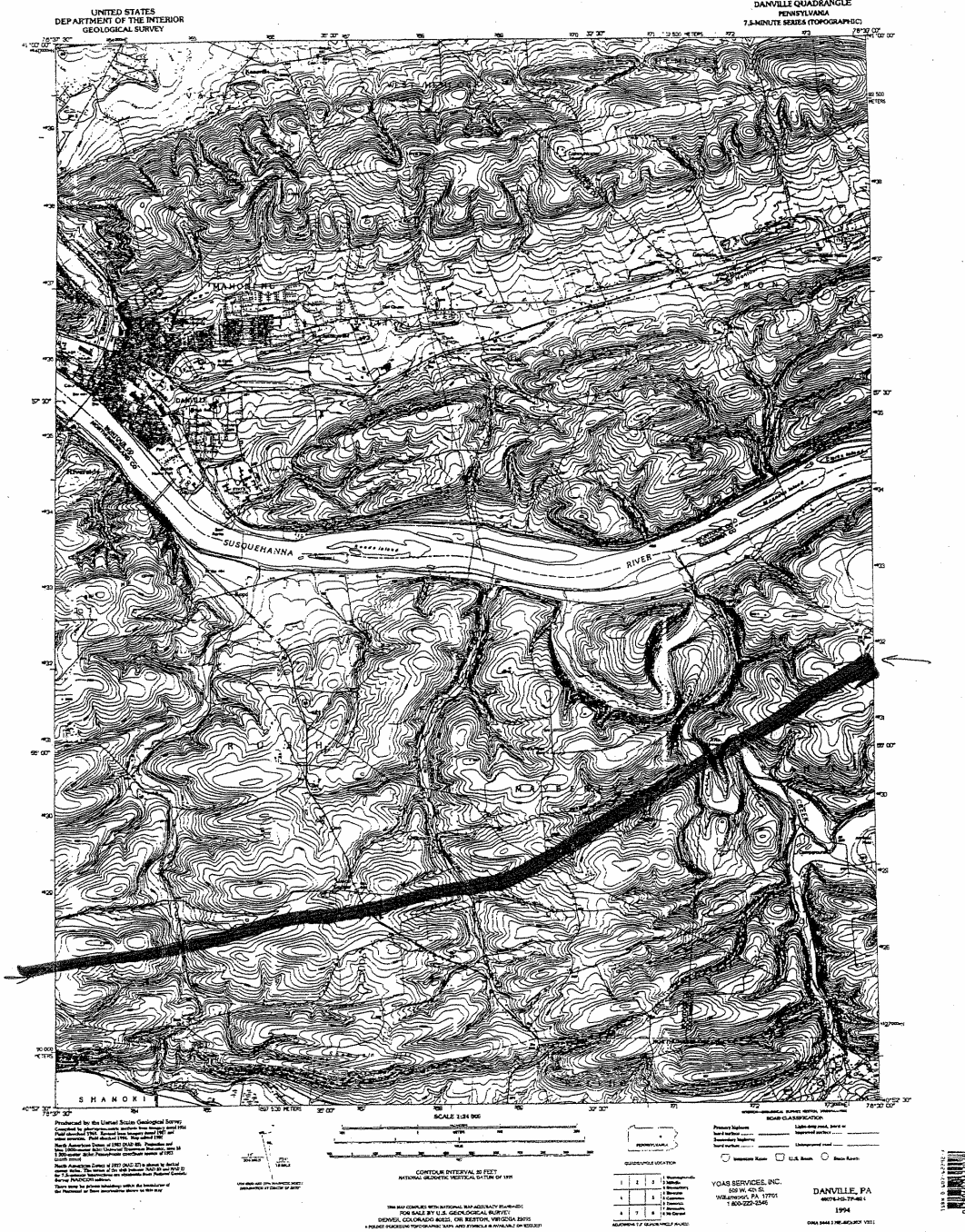
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Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 & 2  
License Renewal Application

SUNBURY - SUSQ. # 2

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Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 & 2  
License Renewal Application

SUNBURY - SUSQ. #2

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Susquehanna Steam Electric Station Units 1 & 2  
License Renewal Application

Sunbury - SUSQ. #2

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