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Chapter 2 Environmental Description

Chapter 2 describes the existing environmental conditions at the VCS site, the site vicinity, and the region. These descriptions provide sufficient detail to identify those resources that have the potential to be affected by the construction, operation, or decommissioning of the new units. The chapter is divided into eight sections:

- Site Location (Section 2.1)
- Land (Section 2.2)
- Water (Section 2.3)
- Ecology (Section 2.4)
- Socioeconomics (Section 2.5)
- Geology (Section 2.6)
- Meteorology, Air Quality, and Noise (Section 2.7)
- Related Federal and Other Project Activities (Section 2.8).

2.1 Site Location

The site is an 11,532-acre undeveloped property located in a rural area, approximately 13.3 miles south of the city of Victoria, Texas. The site boundary is the same as the property boundary.

The site is not located within a township, because the state of Texas does not use the Public Land Survey System. The system used by Texas is called Original Texas Land Surveys (OTLS) and the VCS site falls within the following blocks of that system: BBBC_RR CO, A. L. Fernet, F. Jones, J. A. McFaddin, D. Nira, PI Co 2, PI Co 3, F. Ramon, L. Serna, J. Vairin, and T. G. Winn. These names correspond to the original land grantees of the state of Texas as compiled by the Texas General Land Office and represent the most detailed standard designations of the OTLS system. (RCT 2007)

Coordinates for the power block area reference point are provided in geodetic and Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) systems, as follows:

Geodetic		Texas State Plan Coordinates		UTM Zone 14 (in meters)	
Latitude	Longitude	Northing	Easting	Northing	Easting
N28° 36' 52"	W97° 1' 50"	N13412683.02	E2600321.39	3,166,858	692,544

North American Datum 1983 (NAD 83)

The power block area reference point is approximately 250 feet plant south of the centroid of the power block area and was used as the reference point for many distance measurements in relation to the site, as well as the midpoint for the exclusion area boundary (EAB) and low population zone (LPZ). The power block will be located in the area delineated in [Figure 2.1-1](#).

The exclusion area boundary will be an oval centered at the power block area reference point and having a northwest-southeast distance of 8000 feet and a northeast-southwest distance of 9000 feet ([Figure 2.1-1](#)). As shown on [Figure 2.1-1](#), the exclusion area boundary will be within the property and site boundaries.

Access to the site will be from U.S. Highway 77. The closest operating railway, owned by Union Pacific, runs approximately 4 miles southeast of the power block. The Guadalupe River is approximately 4.1 miles east of the power block area, and the Victoria Barge Canal, which connects to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, is approximately 5 miles east of the power block area.

The VCS power block will be located approximately 3 miles west of Linn Lake and 4.3 miles northwest of the town of McFaddin ([Figure 2.1-2](#)). The closest population center to the site with more than 25,000 residents is the city of Victoria ([Figure 2.1-3](#)). At the time of the 2000 census, the city of Victoria had a population of 60,603 (USCB 2000). The 2006 population estimate for the city of Victoria was 62,169 (USCB 2006). Population distributions are provided for the 10-mile and 50-mile radii in Table 2.5.1-1.

[Figure 2.1-4](#) provides an oblique aerial view of the VCS site.

2.1.1 References

RCT 2007. Railroad Commission of Texas, *Original Texas Land Survey GIS shapefile surv469s.shp*, 2007, Victoria County, available at <http://www.tnris.org/dataload/download/county.jsp?Name=Victoria>, accessed January 18, 2008.

USCB 2000. U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Finder, Victoria City, Texas*. Available at <http://www.factfinder.census.gov>, accessed December 3, 2007.

USCB 2006. U.S. Census Bureau, *Population Finder, Victoria City, Texas*. Available at <http://www.factfinder.census.gov>, accessed March 8, 2008.

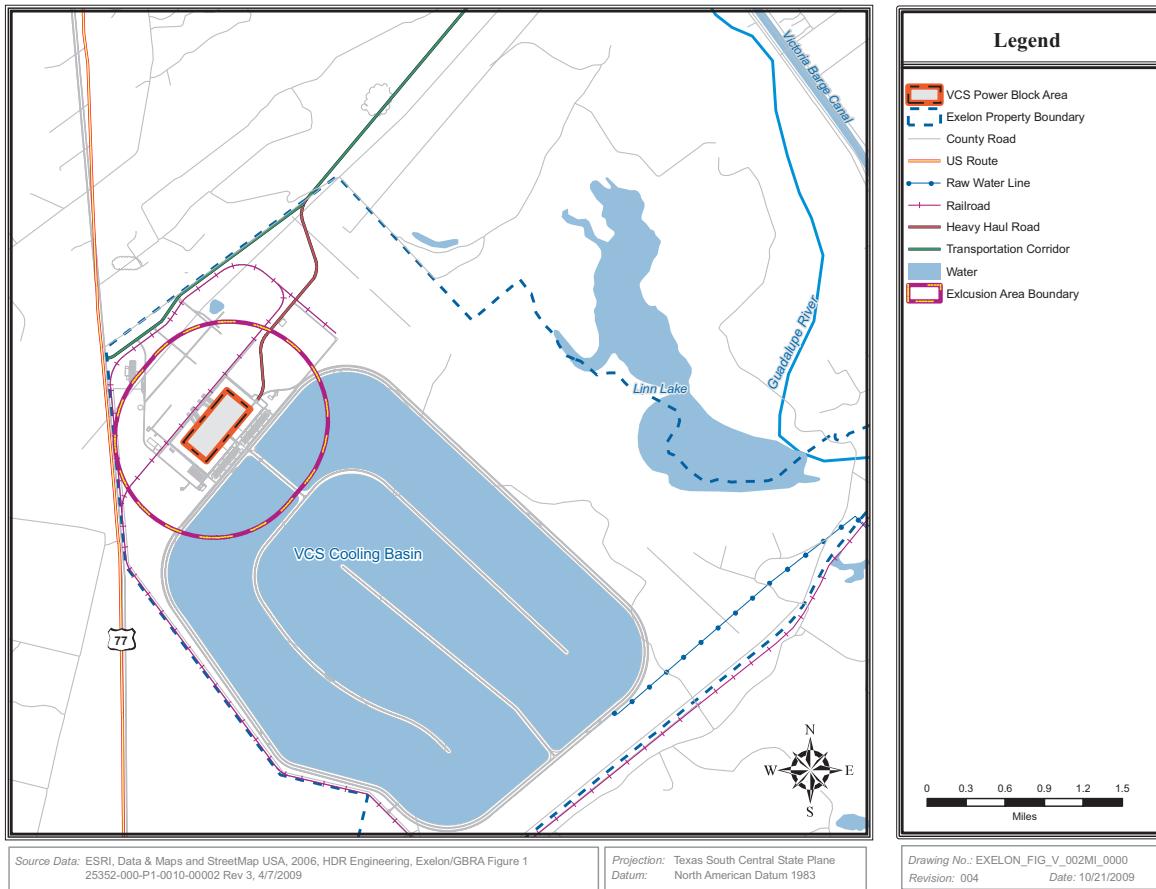


Figure 2.1-1 Victoria County Station Site and Proposed Plant Footprint

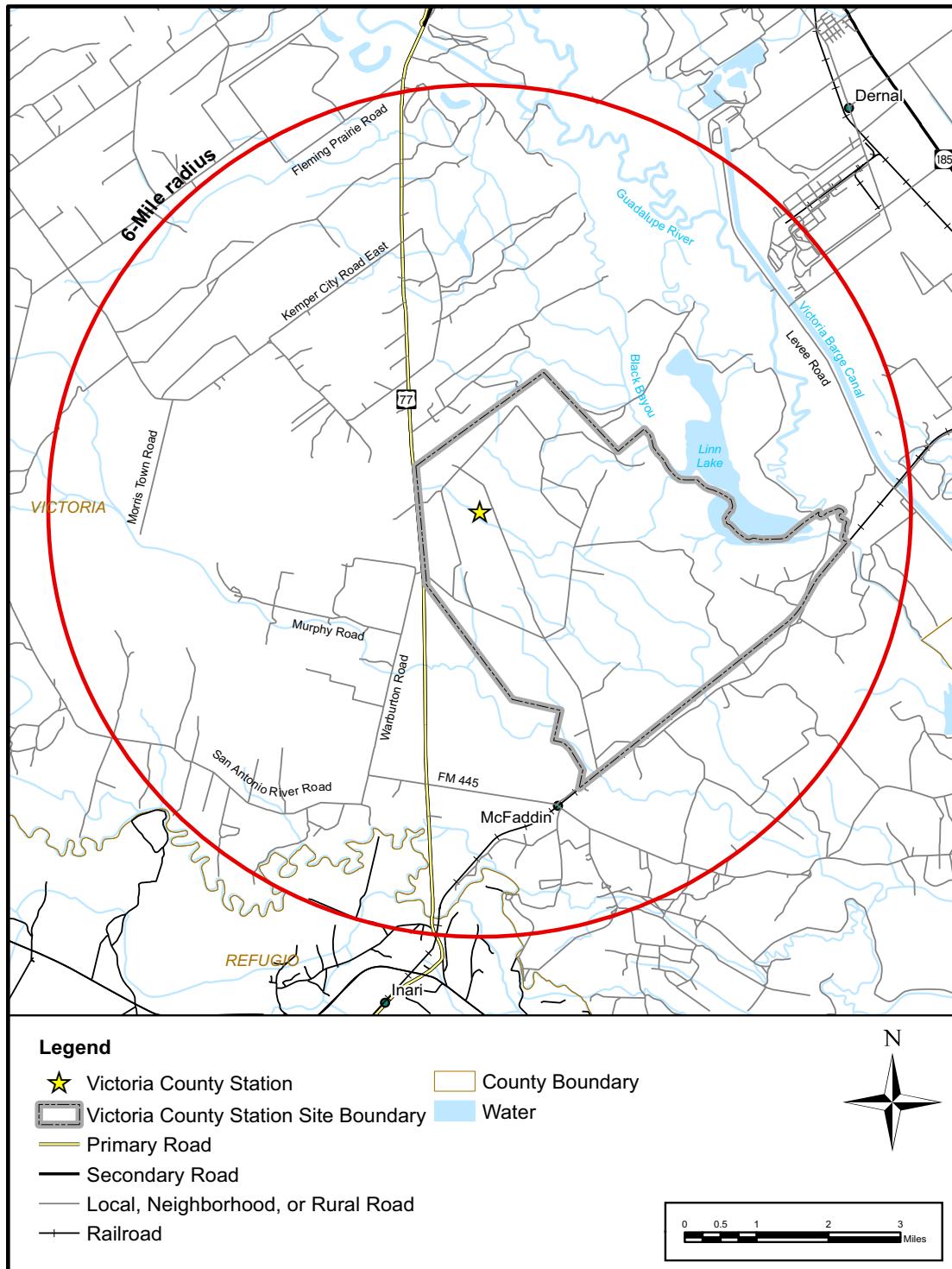


Figure 2.1-2 6-Mile Vicinity



Figure 2.1-3 50-Mile Region

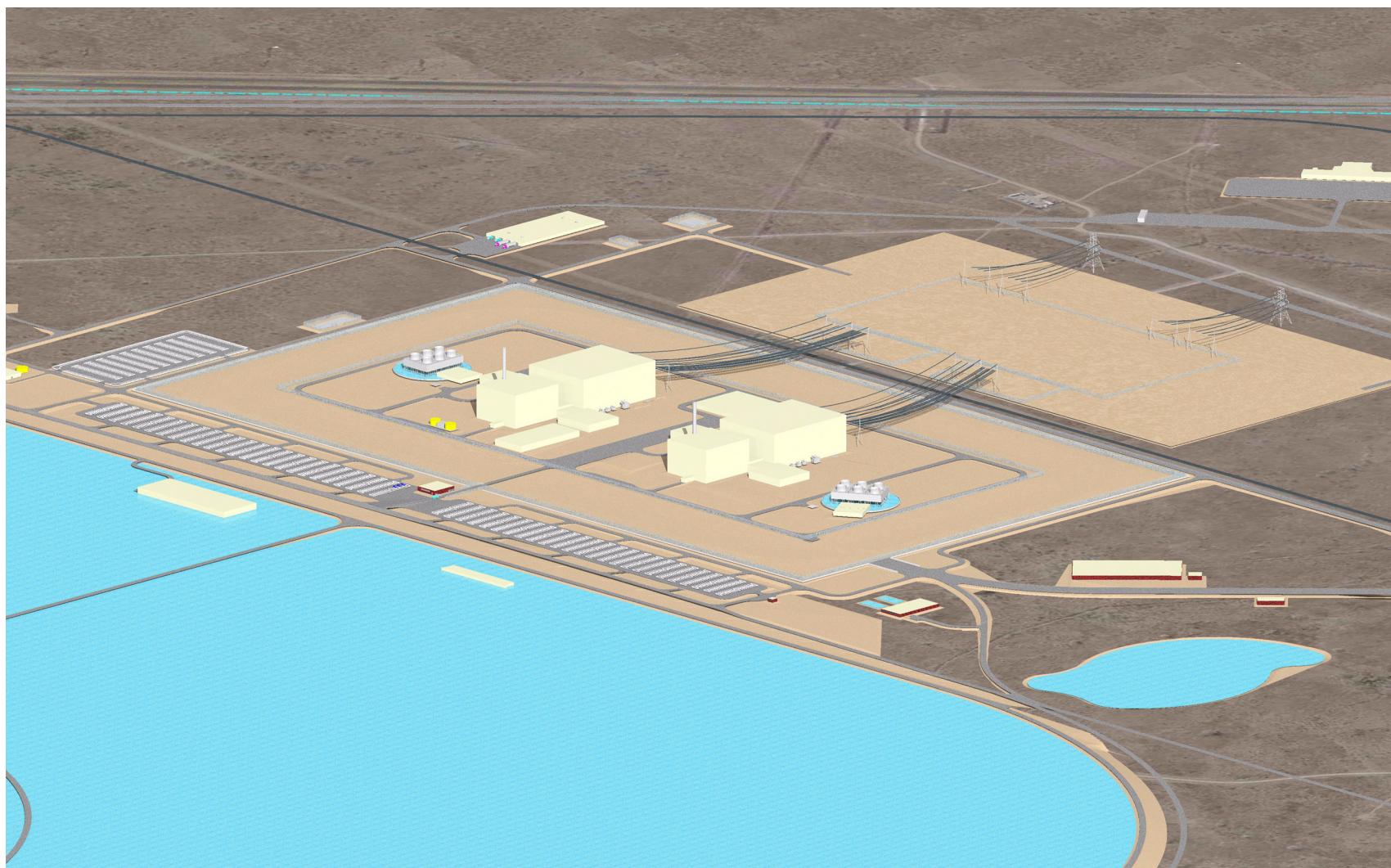


Figure 2.1-4 Oblique Aerial Photograph of the VCS Site (Typical)