



GPU Nuclear, Inc.
U.S. Route #9 South
Post Office Box 388
Forked River, NJ 08731-0388
Tel 609-971-4000

March 24, 2000
1940-00-20085
6530-002-2470

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attention: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sir:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS)
Docket No. 50-219
Annual Environmental Operating Report (AEOR) - 1999

Enclosed are two copies of the 1999 Annual Environmental Operating Report (AEOR) for the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. The AEOR is submitted in accordance with Section 3.5.1(A) of the Oyster Creek Environmental Technical Specifications, as well as Condition 10 of the Incidental Take Statement of the OCNGS Endangered Species Action, Section 7, Consultation Biological Opinion.

If you have any questions concerning this submittal, please contact Ms. Brenda DeMerchant, Licensing Engineer, at 609-971-4642.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sander Levin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sander Levin
Acting Site Director
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

SL/BDeM

Enclosure

cc: Administrator, Region I
NRC Project Manager
Senior Resident Inspector

COOL

1999

ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATING REPORT
OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION

LICENSE NO. DPR-16

DOCKET NO. 50-219

PREPARED BY:

GPU NUCLEAR, INC

March 2000

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) Annual Environmental Operating Report (AEOR) for 1999. This report is required by Oyster Creek Environmental Technical Specification (OCETS) Section 3.5.1(A), as well as Condition 10 of the Incidental Take Statement of the OCNGS Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Biological Opinion.

The OCNGS is a single cycle, forced circulation, boiling water reactor of 620 MWe maximum (summer) dependable net capacity, owned by Jersey Central Power & Light Company (d/b/a GPU Energy, Inc.) and operated by GPU Nuclear, Inc. The OCNGS is located in Lacey Township, Ocean County, New Jersey. The plant is subject to Operating License No. DPR-16. The date of initial reactor criticality was May 3, 1969 and the commercial generation of power began on December 23, 1969.

The AEOR covers the period from January 1, 1999 through December 31, 1999. The report is organized in the following format:

- Section 1.0 – Introduction
- Section 2.0 – Environmental Monitoring
- Section 3.0 – Special Monitoring and Study Activities
- Section 4.0 – Additional Information

2.0 Environmental Monitoring

This section is intended to address the results of environmental monitoring required to be implemented by Section 1.1 “Fish Kill Monitoring Program” of the OCETS during the report period. There were no reportable fish kill events at the OCNGS during this report period.

3.0 Special Monitoring and Study Activities

Incidental Capture Reports documenting the circumstances of incidental captures of sea turtles during the reporting period are included in this report in accordance with Condition 10 of the Incidental Take Statement of the OCNGS Endangered Species Act Section 7 Consultation Biological Opinion. Incident reports concerning the capture of endangered sea turtles entitled “Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 99-1 and 99-2” were previously submitted and are provided as Attachments I and II.

A subadult Kemp’s ridley sea turtle was captured alive on the dilution water system trash racks during the early morning hours on September 23, 1999. NRC and NMFS were notified within 24 hours of the capture and the turtle was taken to the marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMS) in Brigantine, NJ by OCNGS Environmental Affairs Department personnel. MMS personnel observed and fed the turtle while arranging for its transportation to a facility in a warmer climate. The turtle was subsequently transferred to a facility in Virginia Beach, VA from which it was later safely released into the ocean.

During the early morning hours of October 23, 1999 an immature green sea turtle was gently dipnetted from in front of the dilution water system intake structure. The turtle was either comatose or dead at the time of capture, and attempts made for several hours to resuscitate the turtle were unsuccessful. Because there were no boat propellor wounds on the turtle or any open wounds which would have been life-threatening, Environmental Affairs personnel arranged for shipment of the turtle to Dr. Steven Morreale, a Cornell University sea turtle expert, who will conduct a necropsy on the turtle. GPU Nuclear is awaiting the results of the necropsy.

Inspections and cleaning of cooling water intake trash bars continue to be conducted in accordance with Conditions 1 and 4 of the Incidental Take Statement.

Regarding trends in the number of incidental sea turtle captures at the OCNGS, the two turtles captured during 1999 represented only the third and fourth incidental captures which have occurred since the issuance of the Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Statement by the National Marine Fisheries Service in 1995. Compared to the three and one-half year period prior to the Incidental Take Statement requirements, the average annual incidental take of sea turtles has decreased from 2.3 per year to less than one per year.

4.0 Additional Information

This section reports any additional information that is required by Section 3.5.1 of the OCETS which includes a summary of:

- a) All OCETS Non-Routine Environmental Operating Reports and the corrective action taken to remedy them.
- b) Changes made to State and Federal Permits and certificates which pertain to the requirements of the OCETS.
- c) Changes in station design which could involve an environmental impact.
- d) Changes to the OCETS.

4.1 Summary of OCETS Non-Routine Environmental Operating Reports (NEOR)

There were no NEORs during the report period.

4.2 Summary of Changes Made to Federal and State Permits and Certificates which Pertain to the Requirements of the OCETS

There were no changes made to Federal and State permits during the reporting period which pertain to the requirements of the OCETS.

4.3 Summary of Changes in Station Design Which Could Involve an Environmental Impact

There were no changes in station design during the reporting period which could involve an environmental impact.

4.4 Summary of Changes to the OCETS

Amendment 207, dated May 18, 1999 deleted the Organizational Chart and reformatted Appendix B.

ATTACHMENT I

DOCKET 50-219

SEA TURTLE INCIDENTAL CAPTURE REPORT 99-1



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6530-982-2418

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Barry Zalcman, Mailstop O-11-F1
(by cert. mail RRR#Z 051 947 427)
Sea Turtle Coordinator
Washington, DC 20555

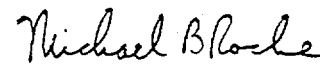
Dear Mr. Zalcman,

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket 50-219
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 99-1

This report provides detailed information regarding the recent incidental capture of a subadult Kemp's ridley sea turtle at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. The turtle was captured alive during the morning of September 23, 1999 at the dilution intake structure trash racks. As indicated on the attached incident report, the turtle has been transferred to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, NJ. This is only the third incidental capture of a sea turtle at Oyster Creek since August of 1994.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Malcolm Browne of our Environmental Affairs Department at (609) 971-4124.

Very truly yours,


Michael B. Roche
V. P. & Director
OCNGS

MBR/MAB/ew

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Mary Colligan (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 947 428)
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat and Protected Resources Division
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

cc: Mr. Hubert Miller (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 947 429)
Administrator, Region 1
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Ms. Helen N. Pastis, Mailstop O-8-B1
(by cert. mail RRR# Z051 947 430)
Washington, DC 20555

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 947 431)
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Washington, DC 20555

Mr. Dave Jenkins (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 947 432)
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife
P.O. Box 236
Tuckahoe, NJ 08250

OCNGS NRC Resident Inspector, OC SEB

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 99-1

September 23, 1999

At approximately 0310 hours on Thursday, September 23, 1999, an Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) operator removed a sea turtle in front of the trash rack in Bay # 4 of the dilution water intake structure. The turtle was carefully removed from the trash racks with a trash rake, and found to be alive and moving about actively. OCNGS Environmental Affairs personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be a subadult Kemp's ridley (Lepidochelys kempii). The water temperature at the time of the incidental capture was approximately 67.2 F (19.6 C) and OCNGS was in operation at full power with four circulating water pumps and two dilution pumps operating. Although it is impossible to say precisely how long the turtle had been near the intake structure prior to removal, the intake trash racks had been mechanically cleaned the previous day.

The turtle measured 10.3 in (26.4 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 6.3 lb (2.9 kg). Sex was not determined. No tags were present on the turtle when captured.

After the turtle was examined by Environmental Affairs personnel, it was transferred to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ. MMSC personnel then began to locate a facility in a warmer climate to which the turtle can be transferred prior to eventually being released in the ocean.

USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the incidental capture within 24 hours on September 23, 1999.

ATTACHMENT II

DOCKET 50-219

SEA TURTLE INCIDENTAL CAPTURE REPORT 99-2



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6530-992-2429

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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Barry Zalcman, Mailstop O-11-F1
(by cert. mail RRR#Z 051 947 447)
Sea Turtle Coordinator
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Zalcman,

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket 50-219
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 99-2

This report provides detailed information regarding the recent incidental capture of a subadult green sea turtle at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. The turtle was captured dead during the morning of October 23, 1999 at the dilution intake structure trash racks. As indicated on the attached incident report, arrangements are being made to send the turtle to Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, for a necropsy. This is only the fourth incidental capture of a sea turtle at Oyster Creek since August of 1994 and the first green sea turtle ever captured at Oyster Creek..

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Malcolm Browne of our Environmental Affairs Department at (609) 971-4124.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael B. Roche".

Michael B. Roche
V. P. & Director
OCNGS

MBR/MAB/ew

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Mary Colligan (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 947 448)
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat and Protected Resources Division
One Blackburn Drive
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cc: Mr. Hubert Miller (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 947 449)
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NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife
P.O. Box 400
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

OCNGS NRC Resident Inspector, OC SEB

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 99-2

October 23, 1999

At approximately 0200 hours on Saturday, October 23, 1999, an Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) operator removed a sea turtle in front of the trash rack in Bay # 4 of the dilution water intake structure. The turtle was carefully removed from the trash racks with a trash rake, and found to be inactive and either dead or comatose. Attempts were made to resuscitate the turtle for several hours after the incidental capture, but the attempts were unsuccessful. OCNGS Environmental Affairs personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be an immature green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The water temperature at the time of the incidental capture was approximately 62.8 F (17.1 C) and OCNGS was in operation at full power with four circulating water pumps and two dilution pumps operating. Although it is impossible to say precisely how long the turtle had been near the intake structure prior to removal, the intake trash racks had been mechanically cleaned the previous day.

The turtle measured 10.6 in (27.0 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 6.1 lb (2.75 kg). Sex was not determined. No tags were present on the turtle when captured.

The cause of death was not immediately apparent. There were no obvious boat propeller wounds and no open wounds that would have been life threatening. After the turtle was examined by Environmental Affairs personnel, arrangements were made for it to be examined further by Dr. Steven Morreale, a Cornell University sea turtle expert who has conducted numerous necropsies on sea turtles in the past.

USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the incidental capture the following workday.