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6530-002-2541

JUN 29 2000

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. James Wilson, Mailstop O-11-F1
(by cert. mail RRR#Z 397 062 895)
Sea Turtle Coordinator
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket 50-219
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2000-1

This report provides detailed information regarding the recent incidental capture of a juvenile loggerhead sea turtle at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. The turtle was captured alive and apparently unharmed during the early morning of June 23, 2000 at the dilution intake structure trash bars. As indicated on the attached incident report, the turtle has been taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, NJ for examination, care and eventual safe release to offshore Atlantic Ocean waters.

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,

Sander Levin
Acting Site Director
Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

SL/MEB/ew
Enclosure

cc: Ms. Mary Colligan (by cert. mail RRR# Z 397 062 896)
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat and Protected Resources Division
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930
Mr. James Wilson

6530-002-2541

IE23

cc: Mr. Hubert Miller (by cert. mail RRR# Z 397 062 897)
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NJ Department of Environmental Protection
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P.O. Box 400
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OCNGS NRC Resident Inspector, OC SEB

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2000-1

June 23, 2000

At approximately 0120 hours on June 23, 2000, an Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) operator removed a live sea turtle from in front of the trash bars in Bay #1 of the dilution water intake structure. The turtle was carefully removed from the trash bars with a sea turtle dipnet, and found to be very active and with no visible wounds or signs of injury. OCNGS Environmental Affairs personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be a juvenile loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*). The water temperature at the time of the incidental capture was approximately 77.5 F (25.3 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 18.8 in (47.8 cm) straight line carapace length, 17 in (43.2 cm) carapace width and weighed approximately 38 lb (17.2 kg). Sex was not determined. No tags were present on the turtle when captured.

After the turtle was examined by Environmental Affairs personnel, arrangements were made for it to be transferred to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ. MMSC personnel examined, fed and tagged the turtle. It was released to safety in the Atlantic Ocean offshore of Brigantine, NJ on June 26.

USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the incidental capture within 24 hours on June 23, 2000.