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6530-002-2549

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US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
(by cert. mail RRR# Z 397 062 916)
Document Control Desk - NRC
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Sirs,

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket 50-219
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2000-2

This report provides detailed information regarding the recent incidental capture of a juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtle at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. The turtle was captured dead during the afternoon of July 2, 2000 at the dilution intake structure trash bars. As indicated on the attached incident report, the turtle has been kept in a freezer for temporary storage at our on-site biological laboratory until arrangements can be made to have a necropsy performed on it.

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 397 062 913)
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat and Protected Resources Division
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

IE23

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2000-2

July 2, 2000

At approximately 1500 hours on Sunday, July 2, 2000, an Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) operator performing a routine inspection of the dilution trash racks noticed a sea turtle floating into the trash bars in Bay # 1 of the dilution intake structure. The turtle was carefully removed as quickly as possible and found to be limp, immobile and with no apparent breathing. OCNGS Environmental Affairs personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be a juvenile Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempfi*). Repeated attempts to resuscitate the turtle were unsuccessful. The water temperature at the time of the incidental capture was approximately 78.1 F (25.6 C) and OCNGS was in operation at full power with four circulating water pumps and two dilution pumps in operation. Although it is impossible to say precisely how long the turtle had been on the intake structure prior to removal, the dilution trash racks had been mechanically cleaned the previous evening (i.e., July 1 at 2130 hours).

The turtle measured 10.75 in (27.3 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 7.1 lb (3.2 kg). Sex was not determined. No tags were present on the turtle when captured. The only external damage exhibited was two dorsal scutes that appeared to have superficial scrape marks. The damage to the dorsal scutes may have occurred during removal of the turtle from the dilution intake area or it may have occurred prior to capture. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the capture within 24 hours on July 3, 2000.

After the turtle was examined by Environmental Affairs personnel, it was placed in a freezer for temporary storage at our on-site biological laboratory until arrangements can be made to have a necropsy performed on it.

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cc: Mr. Hubert Miller (by cert. mail RRR# Z 397 062 914)
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