



Florida Power & Light Company, 6501 South Ocean Drive, Jensen Beach, FL 34957

December 21, 2001

L-2001-274
10 CFR 50.36b
EPP 5.4.2

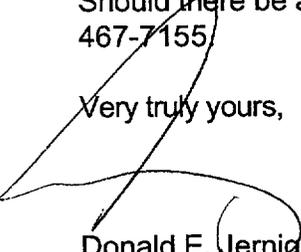
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Re: St. Lucie Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389
Environmental Protection Plan Report
Event Date: November 23, 2001
Non-Routine Environmental Report

The attached report is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of Section 5.4.2 of the St. Lucie Units 1 and 2 Environmental Protection Plans. The attached provides a description of the sea turtle mortality event.

Should there be any questions on this information, please contact George Madden at 561-467-7155.

Very truly yours,



Donald E. Jernigan
Vice President
St. Lucie Plant

DEJ/GRM

Attachment

IE23

**ST LUCIE PLANT SEA TURTLE MORTALITIES
30-DAY WRITTEN REPORT**

EVENT DESCRIPTION

At approximately 1100 hours on November 23, 2001 an underweight green gurtle (*Chelonia mydas*), weighing approximately 11 pounds, was retrieved from the Unit 1 intake wells. This turtle died before it could be sent to rehabilitation, about two hours later.

This is the fifth turtle mortality or injury at the St. Lucie Plant this year that can be attributed to plant operation. The limits for injured or turtle mortality resulting from plant operation, were set by the National Marine Fisheries Incidental Take Statement issued and clarified by the NRC in 2001. For green and loggerhead turtles, the limit is one percent of total captured for a calendar year. Where one percent is not a whole number, then the number will be rounded to the next higher whole number. Over 570 green and loggerhead turtles have been captured at the site year to date, therefore, the incidental take is calculated to be six. The incidental take limit is not final until the end of the calendar year.

CAUSE OF THE EVENT

The 5-inch turtle barrier net had been compromised for about four days in October and November due to heavy loading of drift algae and Sargassum seaweed. The passage of Hurricane Michelle south of the plant site in November caused high winds and increased seas, resulting in a large influx of silt and seaweed. The net had to be lowered at that time to avoid catastrophic damage.

Net damage during these types of events is responsible for allowing the small green turtle back to the intake wells. The net would normally retain turtles of this size where they could be captured by tangle nets.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Divers started work to correct the 5-inch barrier net promptly when degraded conditions were discovered in October and November. Further cleaning and repair of several holes in the net were completed by November 25, 2001. Capture efforts behind net were also increased.

AGENCIES NOTIFIED

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was notified of the mortality in compliance with Marine Turtle Permit #125. A four-hour notification was made to the NRC at 1230 hours on November 23, 2001 in accordance with 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(vi).