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July 8, 2002
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US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk - NRC
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Oyster Creek Generating Station
Docket 50-219
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2002-2

This report provides detailed information regarding the recent incidental capture of a juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtle at the Oyster Creek Generating Station. The turtle was captured alive during the morning of July 3, 2002 after it was observed swimming in front of the dilution water intake structure trash bars. As indicated on the attached incident report, the turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, New Jersey for examination, care, and eventual safe release.

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

Very truly yours,



Ron J. DeGregorio
7/8/02

Ron J. DeGregorio
Vice President, Oyster Creek

RJD/MEB/JJR

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Carrie McDaniel
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IE23

cc: Mr. Hubert Miller, Administrator, Region 1
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OYSTER CREEK GENERATING STATION

Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2002-2

At approximately 0755 hours on Wednesday July 3, 2002, an Oyster Creek Generating Station (OCGS) operator performing a routine inspection of the trash racks noticed a sea turtle swimming freely in Bay # 5 of the dilution water intake structure. The turtle was carefully dip-netted from Bay #5 as quickly as possible and found to be apparently healthy and moving about normally. OCGS Environmental personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be a juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtle (Lepidochelys kempii). The water temperature at the time of the incidental capture was approximately 82.8 °F (28.2 °C) and OCGS was in operation at 100% 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 trash bars prior to removal, the dilution water trash racks had been cleaned earlier the same day at 0500 hours. The turtle was not observed during that trash rack inspection and cleaning.

The turtle measured 14.0 in (35.6 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 13.3 lb (6.0 kg). Sex was not determined. A small scrape less than 1 cm long was observed on one of the dorsal scutes of the carapace. No tags were present on the turtle when captured. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the capture within 24 hours on July 3, 2002.

The turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMS) in Brigantine, NJ at approximately 1015 hours on July 3. At the MMS, the turtle was examined and fed. The scrape on the carapace was determined not to be a significant concern. The turtle will be held at the MMS for a few days before it is tagged and released into near-shore waters around Brigantine, NJ.