

August 23, 2002

Joseph E. Powers, Ph. D.
Acting Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONSULTATION UNDER SECTION 7 OF THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT FOR THE ST. LUCIE NUCLEAR PLANT

Dear Dr. Powers:

We have received your letter of July 30, 2002, regarding the incidental take of protected sea turtles at the St. Lucie nuclear plant located on Hutchinson Island, St. Lucie County, Florida. Based on the clarification provided in your July 30, 2002, letter to the incidental take statement contained in your May 4, 2001, Biological Opinion for the St. Lucie Plant, we request reinitiation of consultation regarding the incidental capture of green and loggerhead turtles (*Chelonia mydas* and *Caretta caretta*). Our decision to request reinitiation was communicated by phone to Mr. Robert Hoffman of your staff by Dr. Michael Masnik, NRC, on August 13, 2002.

Within the next couple of months the NRC staff plans to provide the National Marine Fisheries Service with the facts surrounding the green and loggerhead turtle mortalities attributable to plant operation that occurred during calendar year 2001. Additionally, as requested by your letter dated July 30, 2002, the NRC staff will provide you with the details of Florida Power and Light Company's plans to modify the St. Lucie intake canal and the existing turtle excluder (block) net. The planned modifications should result in a reduction of sea turtle mortalities.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact me at (301) 415-3974 or Dr. Masnik at (301) 415-1191.

Sincerely,
/RA/

Brendan T. Moroney, Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389

cc: See next page

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Mr. J. A. Stall
Florida Power and Light Company

ST. LUCIE PLANT

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