

September 19, 2002

Mr. Dale E. Young, Vice President
Crystal River Nuclear Plant (NA1B)
ATTN: Supervisor, Licensing & Regulatory Programs
15760 W. Power Line Street
Crystal River, Florida 34428-6708

SUBJECT: CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT 3 - SECTION 7 CONSULTATION UNDER THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REGARDING SEA TURTLES AT THE CRYSTAL
RIVER ENERGY COMPLEX (TAC NO. MB1562)

Dear Mr. Young:

Enclosed is a copy of the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS's) Biological Opinion, which was issued August 8, 2002. This Opinion is a reinitiation of consultation subsequent to the June 1999 Opinion. The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission formally requested reinitiation on April 2, 2001, because of a possibility that the Crystal River Energy Complex (CREC) would exceed the NMFS anticipated incidental take levels for live turtles established in the Incidental Take Statement of the June 1999 Opinion.

The August 8, 2002, Opinion states the NMFS belief that the continued operation of the cooling water intake system located near the Gulf of Mexico is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the five species of sea turtles found at CREC. However, it revises the Incidental Take Statement and modifies some of the Terms and Conditions of the previous Opinion. These should be evaluated for the potential need to revise the Crystal River Unit 3 Technical Specifications and plant procedures. If you have any questions following review of the document, please contact me at (301) 415-2020.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Brenda L. Mozafari, Senior Project Manager, Section 2
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-302

Enclosure: NMFS Biological Opinion

cc w/o encl: J. Powers, NMFS

cc: See next page

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Mr. Dale E. Young
Florida Power Corporation

CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT NO. 3

cc:

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