

AmerGen Energy Company, LLC  
Oyster Creek  
US Route 9 South  
P.O. Box 388  
Forked River, NJ 08731-0388

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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 2003-1

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 afternoon of September 24, 2003 after it was removed from 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, NJ 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,



Michael J. Massaro  
Plant Manager

MJM/MEB/dl

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Carrie Upite  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service Northeast Region  
Protected Resources Division  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

IE23

cc: Mr. Hubert Miller, Administrator, Region 1  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Mr. Peter Tam  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Senior Project Manager  
Washington, DC 20555

Mr. James Wilson, Mailstop O-11-F1  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

Senior Resident Inspector  
Oyster Creek Generating Station  
PO Box 388  
Forked River, NJ 08731

Mr. Dave Jenkins  
NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife  
P.O. Box 400  
Trenton, NJ 08625-0400

File 03085

## OYSTER CREEK GENERATING STATION

### Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2003-1

At approximately 1455 hours on Wednesday September 24, 2003, an Oyster Creek Generating Station (OCGS) operator performing a routine cleaning of the trash racks noticed a sea turtle among the vegetation and debris removed from Bay # 6 of the dilution water intake structure. The turtle was 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 kempfi). The water temperature at the time of the incidental capture was approximately 73 F (22.8 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 prior day at 1345 hours. The turtle was not observed during that trash rack inspection and cleaning.

The turtle measured 12.2 in (31.1 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 11.5 lb (5.2 kg). Sex was not determined. Some small scrapes were observed on the dorsal and ventral surfaces 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 September 24, 2003.

The turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ at approximately 1745 hours on September 24, 2003. At the MMSC, the turtle was examined and fed. The scrapes on the carapace were determined not to be a significant concern. The turtle was held at the MMSC for less than a day before it was tagged and released into near-shore Atlantic Ocean waters around Brigantine, NJ.

# SEA TURTLE STRANDING AND SALVAGE NETWORK - STRANDING REPORT

**OBSERVER'S NAME / ADDRESS / PHONE:**

First Malcolm M.I.            Last Browne  
 Affiliation Marine Mammal Stranding Center  
 Address P.O. BOX 773 Brigantine, NJ 08203  
 Area code/Phone number (609) 266-0538

**STRANDING DATE:**

Year 2003 Month 09 Day 24  
 Turtle number by day 01 03-133

State coordinator must be notified within 24 hrs;  
 this was done by  phone (609)266-0538  
 email  fax.

**SPECIES: (check one)**

- CC = Loggerhead
- CM = Green
- DC = Leatherback
- EI = Hawksbill
- LK = Kemp's ridley
- LO = Olive Ridley
- UN = Unidentified

Check Unidentified if not positive; Do Not Guess.

Photos taken?  Yes  No  
 Species verified by state coordinator?  Yes  No

**SEX: (check one)**

- Immature, undetermined
  - Female  Male
- How was sex determined?  
 Necropsy  
 Tail length (adult only)  
 Length of tail beyond carapace            cm / in

**STRANDING LOCATION:**

Offshore (Atlantic or Gulf beach)  Inshore (bay, river, sound, inlet, etc)  
 State New Jersey County Ocean  
 Descriptive location (be specific) Oyster Creek Power Plant, Forked River

Latitude            Longitude           

**CONDITION: (check one)**

- 0 = Alive
- 1 = Fresh dead
- 2 = Moderately decomposed
- 3 = Severely decomposed
- 4 = Dried carcass
- 5 = Skeleton, bones only

**FINAL DISPOSITION: (check one)**

- 1 = Left on beach where found; painted?  Yes\*  No(5)
- 2 = Buried:  on beach /  off beach; carcass painted before buried?  Yes\*  No
- 3 = Salvaged:  all /  part(s), what/why?
- 4 = Pulled up on beach/dune; painted?  Yes\*  No
- 6 = Alive, released
- 7 = Alive, taken to rehab. facility, where? Marine Mammal Stranding Center
- 8 = Left floating, not recovered; painted?  Yes\*  No
- 9 = Disposition unknown, explain

\*if painted, what color?           

**TAGS: Contact state coordinator before disposing of any tagged animal!**

Flipper tags present?  Yes  No  
 Check all 4 flippers. If found, record tag number(s) / tag location / return address           

PIT tag scan?  Yes  No  
 If found, record number / tag location           

Coded wire tag scan?  Yes  No  
 If positive response, record location (flipper)           

Checked for living tag?  Yes  No  
 If found, record location (scute number & side)           

**CARAPACE MEASUREMENTS: (see drawing)**

**Using callipers** Circle unit  
 Straight length (NOTCH-TIP)            cm / in  
 Minimum length (NOTCH-NOTCH)            cm / in  
 Straight width (Widest Point)            cm / in  
**Using non-metal measuring tape** Circle unit  
 Curved length (NOTCH-TIP) 31.5  / in  
 Minimum length (NOTCH-NOTCH) 31  / in  
 Curved width (Widest Point) 30  / in  
 Weight  actual /  est. 11.5 kg  lb

Mark wounds / abnormalities on diagrams at left and describe below (note tar or oil, gear or debris entanglement, propeller damage, epibiota, papillomas, emaciation, etc.). Please note if no wounds / abnormalities are found.

Found in intake pipe at power plant. Minor abrasions to carapace, but no substantial damage. Old injury on left marginal scute, completely healed. Turtle was tagged SSL105 - Right foreflipper and SSL106 - Left foreflipper, and released on 39th St. and the beach in Brigantine on 09/25/03.

