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US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Subject: Oyster Creek Generating Station
Docket 50-219
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2004-3

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 live during the morning of July 16, 2004 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, feeding and eventual 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
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Regulatory Assurance File No. 04024

OYSTER CREEK GENERATING STATION

Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2004-3

At approximately 1100 hours on Friday July 16, 2004, 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 # 5 of the dilution water intake structure. The turtle appeared to be alive and in good condition when captured. OCGS Environmental personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be a juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtle (Lepidochelys kempi). The water temperature at the time of the incidental capture was approximately 76 F (24.4 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 inspected earlier the same day at 0900 hours. The turtle was not observed during that trash rack inspection and cleaning.

The turtle measured 11.0 in (28.0 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 6.9 lb (3.1 kg). Some small scrapes were observed on the plastron (undersurface 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 16, 2004.

The turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ at approximately 1300 hours on July 16, 2004. At the MMSC, the turtle was examined, fed and observed. The turtle was released by MMSC personnel to a safe location off Brigantine, NJ.