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Subject: Oyster Creek Generating Station  
Docket 50-219  
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2004-4

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 dead during the early morning of July 20, 2004 after it was removed from the intake water 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 and necropsy.

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,



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Plant Manager

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Enclosure

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Regulatory Assurance File No. 04024

## **OYSTER CREEK GENERATING STATION**

### **Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2004-4**

At approximately 1213 hours on Tuesday July 20, 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 # 1 of the circulating water intake structure. The turtle appeared to be either comatose or dead. In accordance with OCGS procedures, operators initiated resuscitation of the sea turtle but were unable to revive it. 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 79.7 F (26.5 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 circulating water trash racks had been inspected at 2115 hours the previous evening. The turtle was not observed during that trash rack inspection and cleaning.

The turtle measured only 7.2 in (18.3 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed just 1.8 lb (0.8 kg). A small puncture wound about 1.3 cm in diameter was left rear surface of the carapace. It was not possible to determine definitively whether the turtle had died prior to arriving at OCGS or as a result of interaction with the OCGS intake. No tags were present on the turtle when captured. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the capture within 24 hours on July 20, 2004.

The turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ at approximately 1000 hours on July 21, 2004. At the MMSC, the turtle was examined, measured and a necropsy performed. The turtle was buried by MMSC personnel at Brigantine, NJ.