

September 2, 2004
2130-04-20205
2120-042-2850

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Document Control Desk - NRC
Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Oyster Creek Generating Station
Docket 50-219
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2004-5

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 morning of August 7, 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, observation, feeding and eventual release in nearby ocean waters.

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
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MJM/MEB/dl
Enclosure

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Regulatory Assurance File No. 04024

OYSTER CREEK GENERATING STATION

Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2004-5

At approximately 0900 hours on Saturday August 7, 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, healthy and moving about normally. OCGS personnel who took custody of the turtle photographed it and 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 72.8 F (22.7 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 at 0515 hours the same morning. The turtle was not observed during that trash rack inspection and cleaning.

The turtle measured 27 cm (10.6 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 3.2 kg (7.0 lb). A small and minor bruise on the plastron was noted. Also, a healed scar from a previous injury (i.e., not related to interaction with OCGS) was noted on the left side of the turtle's head immediately in front of its left eye. No tags were present on the turtle when captured. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the capture within 24 hours on August 7, 2004.

The turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ during the morning of August 7, 2004. At the MMSC, the turtle was examined, measured, observed, tagged and subsequently released to safety in the ocean off Brigantine, NJ.