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Subject: Oyster Creek Generating Station  
Docket 50-219  
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Reports 2004-6, 2004-7, & 2004-8

This report provides detailed information regarding the recent incidental captures of three juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtles at the Oyster Creek Generating Station. The turtles were captured 11 September, 12 September, and 23 September 2004 after being removed from the intake water structure trash bars. As indicated on the attached incident reports, the turtles captured alive on 12 September and 23 September were taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, NJ for examination and feeding. The turtles were transported to Virginia Marine Science Museum during late September for tagging and release to the Atlantic Ocean. Release of the turtles from a more southerly locale will help avoid autumn cold stunning effects that could occur if released from a New Jersey location at this time of year.

The turtle captured 11 September was not alive when taken and was transferred to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center for subsequent necropsy at a University of Pennsylvania Veterinary School facility. Final necropsy results indicated that death was due to unknown causes.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Malcolm Browne at (609) 971-4124.

Sincerely,



C. N. Swenson  
Vice President, Oyster Creek Generating Station

CNS/MEB/dl  
Enclosures

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Regulatory Assurance File No. 04024

## OYSTER CREEK GENERATING STATION

### Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2004-6

At approximately 1010 hours on Saturday September 11, 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 # 4 of the dilution 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 kempfi). The water temperature at the time of the incidental capture was approximately 75.8 F (24.3 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 and cleaned the previous morning. The turtle was not observed during that trash rack inspection and cleaning.

The turtle measured only 8.8 in (22.3 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 4.8 lb (2.2 kg). A small puncture wound was observed on the underside of the neck. No tags were present on the turtle when captured. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the capture within 24 hours on September 11, 2004.

The turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ at approximately 1230 hours on September 11, 2004. At the MMSC, the turtle was examined and measured. The turtle was transferred to the New Bolton Center of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, where a necropsy was performed. 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.

## OYSTER CREEK GENERATING STATION

### Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2004-7

At approximately 2329 hours on Sunday September 12, 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 circulating water intake structure. The turtle appeared to be healthy, alert and moving about normally. OCGS Environmental personnel 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 76.8 F (24.9 C) and OCGS was in operation at 40% 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 2000 hours the same evening. The turtle was not observed during that trash rack inspection and cleaning.

The turtle measured only 8.3 in (21.0 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed just 3.1 lb (1.4 kg). The left front flipper was nearly entirely missing due to a previous injury that had completely healed. No tags or scarring from tags were present on the turtle when captured. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the capture within 24 hours on September 13, 2004.

The turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ at approximately 0700 hours on September 13, 2004. At the MMSC, the turtle was examined, measured, fed and held for subsequent release. The turtle was transported to Virginia Marine Science Museum during the week of September 27, 2004 for PIT tagging and release to the Atlantic Ocean. Release of the turtle from a more southerly locale will help avoid autumn cold stunning effects that could occur if released from a New Jersey location at this time of year.

## **OYSTER CREEK GENERATING STATION**

### **Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2004-8**

At approximately 2145 hours on Thursday September 23, 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 # 3 of the circulating water intake structure. The turtle appeared to be alert and responsive. 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 71.4 F (21.9 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 earlier the same day. The turtle was not observed during that trash rack inspection and cleaning.

The turtle measured 9.5 in (24.2 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 4.2 lb (1.9 kg). Small abrasions on the underside of the carapace of the turtle were observed. No tags or scarring from previous tags were present on the turtle when captured. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the capture within 24 hours on September 24, 2004.

The turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ at approximately 0600 hours on September 24, 2004. At the MMSC, the turtle was examined, measured, fed and held for observation prior to release. The turtle was transported to Virginia Marine Science Museum during the week of September 27, 2004 for PIT tagging and release to the Atlantic Ocean. Release of the turtle from a more southerly locale will help avoid autumn cold stunning effects that could occur if released from a New Jersey location at this time of year.