



Crystal River Nuclear Plant
Docket No. 50-302
Operating License No. DPR-72

January 20, 2005
3F0105-04

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Subject: Crystal River – Unit 3 - Sea Turtle Mortality

Dear Sir:

Florida Power Corporation, doing business as Progress Energy Florida, Inc. (PEF), hereby provides the NRC a copy of a sea turtle mortality report submitted to the U. S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The report to the NMFS is required by NMFS's Crystal River – Unit 3 (CR-3) Biological Opinion, dated August 8, 2002, Terms and Conditions, Item 2. Reporting to the NRC is required by the CR-3 Operating License, Appendix B – Part II, Environmental Protection Plan (Non-Radiological) Technical Specifications, Section 4.0, Environmental Conditions, Item 4.1, Significant Environmental Events.

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Mr. Lee Hughes, Superintendent, Environmental and Chemistry at (352) 563-4715.

Sincerely,

Sidney C. Powell
Supervisor, Licensing & Regulatory Programs
Crystal River Nuclear Plant

SCP/ff

Attachment

xc: Regional Administrator, Region II
Senior Resident Inspector
NRR Project Manager

JE23



January 20, 2005
LRP05-0001

U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
South East Regional Office
Attn: Assistant Regional Administrator
Protected Resource Division
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Subject: Crystal River Unit 3 – Sea Turtle Mortality Report

Dear Sir:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the Crystal River Energy Complex (CREC) completed an Endangered Species Act Section 7 formal consultation process. In the Biological Opinion, issued August 8, 2002 by the NMFS, terms and conditions were included which required that if any listed species are apparently injured or killed in the CREC intake canal or the Crystal River Unit 3 bar racks, a report summarizing the incident must be provided to the NMFS within 30 days of the incident.

On December 22, 2004, at 11:00 A.M., a dead Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) was recovered from the Crystal River Unit 3 intake bar racks. The turtle was transferred to the Crystal River Mariculture Center for evaluation by facility biologists. Following a careful physical examination and review of the circumstances of the recovery, on December 28, 2004 at 9:00 A.M., it was concluded that the likely cause of death was drowning causally related to unit operations. It should be noted that although the turtle had no overt external signs of trauma, it did show signs of emaciation. At a carapace length of 48.5 cm, it was significantly larger than the average juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtles expected to occur near the site, and is instead within the size range of adults and subadults that would be expected only in deeper water further offshore. The turtle was recovered from the bar racks at depth of approximately 20 feet during routine maintenance operations. This is the only causal mortality at the Crystal River Energy Complex during 2004.

Progress Energy continues to implement the reasonable and prudent measures described in the current incidental take statement to minimize impacts on sea turtles from facility operations.

If you have any questions regarding this submittal, please contact Mr. Lee Hughes, Superintendent, Environmental and Chemistry at (352) 563-4715.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Paul Hughes'.

Sidney C. Powell
Supervisor, Licensing & Regulatory Programs
Crystal River Nuclear Plant

SCP/pfe