



July 1, 2005

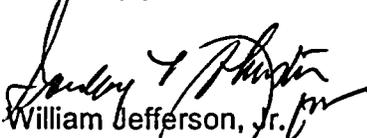
L-2005-146  
10 CFR 50.36b  
EPP 5.4.2

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Attn: Document Control Desk  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Re: St. Lucie Units 1 and 2  
Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389  
Environmental Protection Plan Report  
Date of Event: May 16, 2005  
Unusual or Important Environmental Event – Smalltooth Sawfish

The attached report is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of Section 5.4.2 of the St. Lucie Units 1 and 2 Environmental Protection Plans to provide a description of a reportable capture of a smalltooth sawfish in the intake canal at the St. Lucie Plant.

Very truly yours,

  
William Jefferson, Jr.  
Vice President  
St. Lucie Plant

WJ/spt

Attachment

IE23

### EVENT DESCRIPTION

At approximately 1830 hours on May 16, 2005, a smalltooth sawfish (*Pristis pectinata*) was captured in a temporary net that was deployed to capture sea turtles in the St. Lucie Plant intake canal. The fish was released from the net by station biologists who monitor the net for sea turtles. After being freed from the net, the animal was measured and immediately returned to the ocean with no apparent injury.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was contacted for guidance on May 17, 2005 to determine if the event needed to be formally reported. At the time, NMFS personnel requested that information regarding the fish be forwarded to Mote Marine Laboratory for research purposes, but stated that no formal notification to NMFS was required. On June 7, 2005, NMFS contacted FPL with additional information that the sawfish was federally listed as an endangered species and that further review of the impact to the species may be warranted. After discussion with NMFS on June 7, 2005, FPL determined that the event should be classified as an "unusual or important environmental event," as discussed in the St. Lucie Plant Environmental Protection Plans (EPP). Under the EPP, the unusual occurrence of a species protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires notification to the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (USNRC) Operations Center; therefore, notification was made to USNRC on June 8, 2005 following the discussion with NMFS. A follow-up report is required to be issued within 30 days of the initial report to USNRC.

### CAUSE OF THE EVENT

The temporary entrainment of the smalltooth sawfish in the intake canal system was apparently caused when the fish entered the offshore intake piping structure and was caught by the flow of seawater through the plant's intake pipes. The intake piping structure terminates at a common intake canal that is approximately 300 feet wide and 25 feet deep. The fish was discovered by on-site biologists in the intake canal after becoming entangled in temporary netting designed for sea turtle capture. The species has not been seen prior to this in the plant's intake canal system and the specific cause of this occurrence is unknown.

### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The USNRC and NMFS notified FPL that they would initiate consultation regarding this event. On June 20, 2005, FPL provided additional details regarding the event in a teleconference with USNRC to support the request for consultation. FPL will review recommendations that may result from consultation between the agencies and implement corrective actions as required.

St. Lucie Units 1 and 2  
Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389  
L-2005-146 Attachment Page 2

AGENCIES NOTIFIED

National Marine Fisheries Service was contacted by FPL on May 17, 2005. NMFS again communicated with FPL on June 7, 2005.

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was notified of the event on June 8, 2005 and additional information was provided by FPL to USNRC on June 20, 2005.