



December 27, 2006

L 2006-275  
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: December 6, 2006  
Unusual or Important Environmental Event – Manatee

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 an adult manatee in the intake canal at the St. Lucie Plant.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Christopher R. Costanzo for SVP". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gordon L. Johnston  
Site Vice President  
St. Lucie Plant

GLJ/KWF

Attachment

#### EVENT DESCRIPTION

At 0800 hours on December 6, 2006, an adult manatee (*Trichechus manatus latirostris*) was discovered in the plant intake water cooling canal. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission (FWC) were notified of the manatee entrapment at 0800 hours. FWC arrived at the plant site at approximately 1000 hours to support and direct capture efforts. During the course of the day the manatee was able to elude all capture efforts. At 0900 on December 8, 2006, the manatee was finally captured in the Northeast corner of the plant intake canal.

The manatee was removed from the canal by the recovery team at approximately 0930 hours. The FWC declared that the cuts and scrapes sustained during the capture efforts were superficial and that the manatee was in good health. The manatee was removed from the canal at 0930, and was transported across plant property and released in the Indian River at 1026 hours on December 8, 2006.

#### CAUSE OF THE EVENT

The temporary entrapment of the adult manatee in the intake canal system was caused when the manatee entered the offshore intake piping structure and was caught by the flow of seawater through the plant's intake pipes. The intake pipe structure terminates at a common intake canal that is approximately 300 feet wide and 25 feet deep.

#### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

The manatee was removed from the intake canal under the direction of the FWC, and returned to the Indian River in good health on December 8, 2006.

#### CORRECTIVE ACTIONS TO PRECLUDE REPETITION OF THE EVENT

Over the history of operation of the St. Lucie Plant there have been a total of 7 manatee captures including the one on December 6, 2006. The design of the intake plant structures are permanent, therefore these structures are not subject to manipulation or modification. Staff biologists will continue to monitor the intake canal for manatees as well as other biota and respond to any future entrainments as soon as possible. Removal of any future manatee entrainments will be conducted in the most extreme northeastern part of the canal where the bank is less steep and shorter, thus facilitating the extraction process. The use of this new extraction point could possibly reduce some of the superficial cuts and scrapes sustained during the handling of the manatee.

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AGENCIES NOTIFIED

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was contacted by FP&L on December 6, 2006.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission was notified of the event on December 6, 2006.