



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

February 7, 2007  
3F0207-04

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

Subject: Crystal River – Unit 3 - Sea Turtle Mortality Report

Dear Sir:

Florida Power Corporation, doing business as Progress Energy Florida, Inc. (PEF), hereby provides a copy to the NRC of a sea turtle mortality report that was 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.

This letter establishes no new regulatory commitments.

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 black ink, appearing to read 'Paul E. Infanger', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Paul E. Infanger  
Supervisor, Licensing & Regulatory Programs  
Crystal River Nuclear Plant

PEI/ff

Attachment

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



February 7, 2007  
LRP07-0003

U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service  
South East Regional Office  
Attn: Assistant Regional Administrator  
Protected Resources Division  
263 13th Avenue, South  
Saint Petersburg, Florida 33701

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 28, 2006, at 11:22 P.M., a dead Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) was recovered from the Crystal River Unit 3 intake screenwash basket. The turtle was transferred to the Crystal River Mariculture Center for evaluation by facility biologists. On December 30, 2006, a request was made to the University of Florida – College of Veterinary Medicine to conduct a necropsy in order to determine if the death was causally related to CREC operations. There were delays in securing the proper transfer of the carcass to the University of Florida – College of Veterinary Medicine and the completion of the necropsy. This delayed the final determination of causal mortality until preliminary necropsy results were obtained which in turn, delayed the issuance of this report in excess of the required 30 days from carcass recovery.

Following a careful physical examination and review of the circumstances of the recovery, on January 31, 2007, it was concluded that the likely cause of death was drowning causally related to unit operations. The sea turtle had a carapace length of 22 cm and was in good nutritional condition. A Kemp's ridley sea turtle this small is a rare occurrence in the intake canal, based on historical records of rescues at the site and on juvenile sea turtle habitat utilization and migration information. A likely scenario is that this small turtle was swimming in the intake canal and oriented in such a way as to pass unobserved between the fixed bar rack openings. This is the only causal mortality at the Crystal River Energy Complex during 2006.

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,

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Paul E. Infanger  
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