



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

November 1, 2007  
3F1107-03

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 (FPC), doing business as Progress Energy Florida, Inc., 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,

Dennis W. Herrin  
Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Regulatory Programs  
Crystal River Nuclear Plant

DWH/ff

Attachment

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

IE23

NRR



November 1, 2007  
LRP07-0037

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 (CR-3) bar racks, a report summarizing the incident must be provided to the NMFS within 30 days of the incident.

On October 5, 2007, at 4:30 P.M., a Green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) was recovered from the CR-3 intake bar racks. Resuscitation techniques were performed without success and the turtle was determined to be deceased. The Green turtle, weighing 14 lbs. with a carapace length of 20 inches, exhibited no visible blunt force or collision injuries, but had numerous papillomas around every soft tissue exposed. A necropsy was performed to assist in determining the cause of death.

The necropsy concluded that the turtle had an enormous amount of tumors, a lung disorder, and parasites, and most likely was pushed into the CREC intake canal by wind or tides, or the flow of water. The turtle appeared to be feeding due to food in the stomach and it had water in its lungs. The turtle was severely compromised and most likely was not strong enough and unable to swim away from the bar racks. The final determination indicates drowning; therefore, the determination is causally related to CR-3 operations.

Currently, this is the only causally related mortality for CR-3 in 2007.

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 black ink that reads 'Dennis W. Herrin'.

Dennis W. Herrin  
Acting Supervisor, Licensing & Regulatory Programs  
Crystal River Nuclear Plant

DWH/ff

xc: NOAA