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US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Facility Operating License No. DPR-16
NRC Docket No. 50-219

Subject: Sea Turtle Incidental Take Report 2008-6

The attached report provides detailed information regarding the recent incidental take of a severely decomposed juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtle at Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS). This turtle was incidentally taken late in the evening of September 12, 2008. As indicated in the attached incident report, the turtle was turned over to the custody of the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) for examination and to conduct a necropsy if possible. Note that this turtle had a severe, deep wound across the top of its carapace (possibly inflicted by a boat propeller) and was severely decomposed at the time of the incidental take at OCNGS. Subsequent to examination of the turtle by MMSC personnel, it was buried at Brigantine, NJ.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our environmental scientist, Malcolm Browne at (609) 971-4124.

Sincerely,



For James Randich
Plant Manager, Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Enclosures:

1. Sea Turtle Incidental Take Report 2008-6 with photograph
2. MMSC-08-127 Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network – Stranding Report

IEB
NRR

Page 2 of 2

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Regulatory Assurance File No. 07024

Enclosure 1
OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION
Sea Turtle Incidental Take Report 2008-6
(Field #: MMSC-08-127)

At approximately 2112 hours on Friday, September 12, 2008, an Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) Intake Operator who was manually removing materials from the upstream face of the trash rack in Bay # 6 of the dilution water intake noticed a sea turtle upside-down among the debris he was removing from the trash rack. The operator promptly recovered the turtle in accordance with station safe turtle handling instructions. The water temperature at the time of the incidental take was approximately 79.6 degrees F (26.4 C) and OCNGS was in operation at 100% power with four circulating water pumps and two dilution pumps in operation. Rain was occurring at the time and there were light grassing conditions.

The turtle appeared to have a partially crushed carapace and a deep, narrow slice wound typical of boat propeller wounds. The turtle was severely decomposed, its skull was skeletonized and it was missing one eye. It had many of its scutes missing. OCNGS Environmental personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be a juvenile Kemp's ridley sea turtle (Lepidochelys kempi). Although it is impossible to say precisely how long the turtle had been in the intake bay prior to removal, the dilution water trash racks had been inspected less than four hours prior to the take at 1720 hours the same evening. The trash racks had last been cleaned approximately 24 hours prior to the take.

The turtle was handed over to personnel from the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ at approximately 0945 hours on September 13, 2008. At the MMSC, the turtle was examined and measured.

A stranding/necropsy report was completed in which MMSC personnel reported that the animal had suffered severe trauma to its carapace and head, including a "large prop cut" indicative of a boating accident. The turtle of undetermined sex measured only 24.5 cm carapace length straight line and weighed an estimated 5 pounds. No flipper tags were present on the turtle when inspected. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the incidental take within 24 hours. Due to the severe decomposition of the turtle, MMSC personnel were unable to perform a detailed necropsy, but did perform a cursory necropsy that was documented on Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network – Stranding Report, Field ID # MMSC-08-127 (attached). Following completion of the necropsy, MMSC personnel buried the turtle at the north end of Brigantine Island, New Jersey.



SEA TURTLE STRANDING AND SALVAGE NETWORK - STRANDING REPORT

OBSERVER'S NAME / ADDRESS / PHONE:

First Brandi M.I. Last Biehl
 Affiliation Marine Mammal Stranding Center
 Address PO Box 773, 3625 Brigantine Blvd., Brigantine, NJ 08203
 Area code/Phone number (609) 266-0538

STRANDING DATE:

Year 20 08 Month 09 Day 13
 Turtle number by day 01
 Field ID # MMSC-08-127
 Coordinator must be notified within 24 hrs; this was done by phone (609)266-0538
 email fax

SPECIES: (check one)

- CC = Loggerhead
 CM = Green
 DC = Leatherback
 EI = Hawksbill
 LK = Kemp's Ridley
 LO = Olive Ridley
 UN = Unidentified

Check Unidentified if not positive. Do Not Guess.

Carcass necropsied? Yes No
 Photos taken? Yes No
 Species verified by coordinator?
 Yes No

SEX:

Undetermined
 Female Male
 Does tail extend beyond carapace?
 Yes; how far? cm / in
 No
 How was sex determined?
 Necropsy
 Tail length (adult only)

STRANDING LOCATION:

Offshore (Atlantic or Gulf beach) Inshore (bay, river, sound, inlet, etc)
 State New Jersey County Ocean
 Descriptive location (be specific) Oyster Creek Nuclear Generator Station., Forked River
 Latitude 39.81417°N Longitude 74.20700°W

CONDITION: (check one)

- 0 = Alive
 1 = Fresh dead
 2 = Moderately decomposed
 3 = Severely decomposed
 4 = Dried carcass
 5 = Skeleton, bones only

FINAL DISPOSITION: (check)

- 1 = Left on beach where found; painted? Yes* No(5)
 2 = Buried: on beach / off beach;
 carcass painted before buried? Yes* No
 3 = Salvaged: all / part(s), what/why?
 4 = Pulled up on beach/dune; painted? Yes* No
 6 = Alive, released
 7 = Alive, taken to rehab. facility, where?
 8 = Left floating, not recovered; painted? Yes* No
 9 = Disposition unknown, explain

*If painted, what color?

TAGS: Contact coordinator before disposing of any tagged animal!

Checked for flipper tags? Yes No
 Check all 4 flippers. If found, record tag number(s) / tag location / return address

PIT tag scan? Yes No
 If found, record number / tag location

Coded wire tag scan? Yes No
 If positive response, record location (flipper)

Unable to check for
 Checked for living tag? Yes No
 If found, record location (scute number & side)

CARAPACE MEASUREMENTS: (see drawing)

Using calipers
 Straight length (NOTCH-TIP) 24.5 cm in
 Minimum length (NOTCH-NOTCH) cm in
 Straight width (Widest Point) 23.6 cm in
 Using non-metal measuring tape
 Curved length (NOTCH-TIP) 10 cm in
 Minimum length (NOTCH-NOTCH) cm in
 Curved width (Widest Point) 10 1/2 cm in
 Weight actual / est. 5 kg lb

Mark wounds / abnormalities on diagrams at left and describe below (note tar or oil, gear or debris entanglement, propeller damage, epibiota, papillomas, emaciation, etc.). Please note if no wounds / abnormalities are found.

Dead. Severely decomposed. This turtle was found dead on the power plant's intake grate. The skull was skeletonized, and it's right eye was missing. The skutes are missing or peeling off. There was a large prop cut across the carapace. The turtle was buried on the north end of Brigantine. Photos and measurements by MMSC.

