



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

March 9, 2009
3F0309-05

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 Ms. Sheilagh Garrity, Supervisor, Environmental and Chemistry at (352) 563-2943, ext. 3466.

Sincerely,

Dan Westcott
Supervisor, Licensing & Regulatory Programs
Crystal River Nuclear Plant

DRW/ff

Attachment

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

IE23
NRR



March 9, 2009
LRP09-0008

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 February 9, 2009, a Kemp's ridley (*Lepidochelys kempii*) sea turtle was recovered by divers from the CR-3 intake bar racks. The juvenile Kemp's ridley (weighing 8.94 kg), though moderated decomposed, exhibited no obvious external signs of trauma. A necropsy was performed to assist in determining the cause of death.

Due to the advanced state of decomposition, an assessment from the necropsy was significantly limited by postmortem artifacts. A definitive cause of death could not be determined and evaluation for evidence of drowning was inconclusive due to the poor postmortem state. The only finding of note was the extensive deposition of spirorchiid (*Neospirochis sp.*) eggs within the thyroid gland; a condition noted in a number of stranded loggerhead and green turtles in Florida. However, the effects of thyroid injury due to parasitism is unknown at this time. The fact that the Kemp's ridley sea turtle was recovered from an area of the bar racks approximately 10 feet below the surface of the water, along with the inconclusive necropsy findings and lack of obvious trauma or other cause of death, leads to the determination that the death should be classified as causally related to CR-3 operations.

Currently, this is the only causally-related mortality for CR-3 in 2009.

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 Ms. Sheilagh Garrity, Supervisor, Environmental and Chemistry at (352) 563-2943, ext. 3466.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan Westcott'.

Dan Westcott
Supervisor, Licensing & Regulatory Programs
Crystal River Nuclear Plant

DRW/ff

Progress Energy Florida, Inc.
Crystal River Nuclear Plant
15760 W. Powerline Street
Crystal River, FL 34428