



January 8, 2014

L-2014-008
10 CFR 50.4
10 CFR 50.36.b
EPP 4.1

U.S. Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555
RE: St. Lucie Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389
Environmental Protection Plan Report
Event Date: December 27, 2013
Unusual or Important Environmental Event - Turtle Mortality

On December 27, 2013, a dead juvenile green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) was recovered from the east side of the St. Lucie Plant intake cooling canal five-inch barrier net. A necropsy was performed that same day. The determination is that the mortality was causal to plant operations due to forced submersion.

The attached report is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of Section 4.1 of the St. Lucie Units 1 and 2 Environmental Protection Plans to provide the description of a reportable sea turtle mortality that was causal to plant operations at the St. Lucie Plant.

Sincerely,

Eric S. Katzman
Licensing Manager
St. Lucie Plant

ESK/cs

Attachment

cc: FDEP Siting Office

IEE3
NRR

Unusual or Important Environmental Event - Turtle Mortality

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

On December 27, 2013, a dead green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) was recovered from the east side of the St. Lucie Plant intake canal five-inch turtle barrier net. The sea turtle was sent to Nancy S. Mettee, DVM, for necropsy.

The turtle appeared to be in otherwise good condition and devoid of any signs of trauma, thus our initial conclusion was mortality due to forced submersion. Subsequent results from the necropsy confirmed that the mortality was due to forced submersion, thus causal to plant operations.

The limits for sea turtle injuries and mortalities resulting from plant operations were set by the National Marine Fisheries Incidental Take Statement, issued and clarified by the NRC in 2001. These limits have not been exceeded.

CAUSE OF EVENT

The most probable cause of the mortality is that the turtle was entrained in the plant's intake cooling system at the end of a breath cycle. The time required to traverse the intake pipe exceeded the turtle's air reserve.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The five-inch turtle net was immediately inspected by staff biologists directly after discovery of the turtle. No additional issues were identified with the net that could have contributed to the mortality. Hourly inspections of the five-inch net continue during daylight hours as well as constant surveillance of the intake canals two tangle nets.

ACTIONS TO PRECLUDE FUTURE EVENTS

Aggressive turtle monitoring and removal protocols remain in place; hourly inspections of the five-inch net and constant observations on the tangle nets occur during daylight hours. When visibility allows staff biologist perform hand, and dip net turtle captures in an effort to minimize turtle residence time.

AGENCIES NOTIFIED

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission were notified on December 27, 2013, in accordance with Marine Turtle Permit# MTP-125 and the Site Environmental Protection Plan.

A notification was made to the NRC on December 27, 2013, per the requirements of 10 CFR 50.72(b) (2) (xi).