



January 7, 2016

L-2016-001
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 12, 2015
Unusual or Important Environmental Event - Turtle Mortality

On December 12, 2015, 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 and determined cause of the mortality to be drowning.

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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Katzman'.

Eric S. Katzman
Licensing Manager
St. Lucie Plant

ESK/rcs

Attachment

cc: FDEP Siting Office

IE77
NRR

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

On December 12, 2016, a dead juvenile 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.

Although additional trauma was noted on the turtle, the necropsy determined that the mortality was due to drowning.

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 canal's 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 continuous surveillance of the intake canal's two tangle nets occur during daylight hours. When visibility allows, staff biologists 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 12, 2015, in accordance with Marine Turtle Permit MTP-125 and the Site Environmental Protection Plan.

A notification was made to the NRC on December 12, 2015, per the requirements of 10 CFR 50.72(b) (2) (xi).