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SAGER,D.A. Florida Power & Light Co.
RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
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SUBJECT: NPDES noncompliance notification:sea turtle captures in intake canal increased dramatically beginning in Fall 1992. During First Quarter 1993,165 turtles removed from canal. Mods to ocean intake velocity caps completed in Feb 1992.

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P.O. Box 128, Ft. Pierce, FL 34954-0128

April 14, 1993

L-93-98
10 CFR 50.36
EPP 4.1

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, DC 20555

Re: St. Lucie Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389
Increase in Turtle Entrapment
in the St. Lucie Intake Canal

The attached report is being sent pursuant to Section 4.1 of the St. Lucie Unit 1 and Unit 2 Environmental Protection Plan.

Should there be any questions on this information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

D. A. Sager
Vice President
St. Lucie Plant

DAS:JJB:kw

cc: Stewart D. Ebneter, Regional Administrator, Region II, USNRC
Senior Resident Inspector, USNRC, St. Lucie Plant

Attachments

DAS/PSL #897-93

IE23
1/1

INCREASED TURTLE ENTRAPMENT IN ST. LUCIE INTAKE CANAL

EVENT DESCRIPTION

Sea turtle captures in the St. Lucie Plant intake canal have dramatically increased over the past several months. Data indicates an increase beginning the fall of 1992 (see attached table). During the first quarter of 1993, 165 turtles were removed from the canal, including four Leatherbacks weighing over 300 pounds each. This first quarter total represents 88% of the total capture in 1992 and 136% of the total for 1991.

All turtles captured were tagged and released by Applied Biology, Inc., a contractor for Florida Power & Light (FP&L). Applied Biology, Inc., and FP&L hold the necessary state permits to conduct sea turtle monitoring activities at the St. Lucie Plant.

As prior experience indicates, the intake canal samples the turtle population of the coastal waters off Hutchinson Island at a fixed and independent rate. Thus, any increase in the number of turtles captured in the canal is indicative of a larger population in the coastal waters. A larger population of sea turtles off Hutchinson Island is biologically plausibe. Recent aerial surveys have shown an increase in the numbers of Leatherback turtles nearshore.

Modificatons made to the ocean intake velocity caps were completed in February, 1992, approximately six months prior to the noted increase of turtles. The last inspection of the ocean intake velocity cap was made in June, 1992. The next scheduled full inspection is scheduled for June, 1993. As soon as the sea conditions and visibility permit, St. Lucie Land Management will schedule a survey of the velocity cap to ensure no damage or deterioration has occurred.

TURTLES CAPTURED YEAR - 1991

YEAR	GREENS	LOGGERHEAD	KEMP'S RIDLY	HAWKSBILL	LEATHERBACK	TOTAL
JANUARY	1	13	0	0	0	14
FEBRUARY	4	12	0	0	0	16
MARCH	2	20	1	1	0	24
APRIL	1	19	0	0	0	20
MAY	0	15	0	0	0	15
JUNE	0	11	0	0	0	11
JULY	0	6	0	0	0	6
AUGUST	0	3	0	0	0	3
SEPTEMBER	1	2	0	0	0	3
OCTOBER	1	4	0	0	0	5
NOVEMBER	1	1	0	0	0	2
DECEMBER	1	1	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	12	107	1	1	0	121

TURTLES CAPTURED YEAR - 1992

YEAR	GREENS	LOGGERHEAD	KEMP'S RIDLY	HAWKSBILL	LEATHERBACK	TOTAL
JANUARY	2	19	0	0	1	22
FEBRUARY	6	12	0	0	0	18
MARCH	0	3	0	0	0	3
APRIL	2	13	0	0	0	15
MAY	1	1	0	0	0	2
JUNE	0	5	0	0	0	5
JULY	0	16	0	0	0	16
AUGUST	3	8	0	1	0	12
SEPTEMBER	6	11	0	0	0	17
OCTOBER	18	11	0	1	0	30
NOVEMBER	12	11	0	0	0	23
DECEMBER	11	13	0	0	0	24
TOTAL	61	123	0	2	1	187

TURTLES CAPTURED YEAR - 1993

YEAR	GREENS	LOGGERHEAD	KEMPS RIDLY	HAWKSBILL	LEATHERBACK	TOTAL
JANUARY	16	33	2	0	0	51
FEBRUARY	28	11	0	0	0	39
MARCH	55	15	1	0	4	75
APRIL						
MAY						
JUNE						
JULY						
AUGUST						
SEPTEMBER						
OCTOBER						
NOVEMBER						
DECEMBER						
3 Month TOTAL	99	59	3	0	4	165