

UNITED STATES NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

May 10, 1995

Mr. J. H. Goldberg President - Nuclear Division Florida Power and Light Company Post Office Box 14000 Juno Beach, Florida 33408-0420

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FORMAL CONSULTATION REGARDING SEA TURTLES - ST. LUCIE

PLANT, UNITS 1 AND 2

Dear Mr. Goldberg:

Based on the increasing number of Federally protected sea turtles being removed from the St. Lucie intake canal in recent months, as reported in the Annual Environmental Operating Report 1994 - Volume I prepared by Florida Power & Light Company (FPL), and based on conversations with representatives of FPL, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) believes that formal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is necessary. Accordingly, the NRC has requested such consultation (see Enclosure) in accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and 50 CFR Part 402, Interagency Cooperation, Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

As required by the ESA; the NRC intends to prepare a biological assessment (BA) to determine the level of impact the St. Lucie Plant operation may have on sea turtles. The BA will encompass five species of sea turtles: (1) Kemps ridley (Lepidochelys kempii), (2) Loggerhead (Caretta caretta), (3) Leatherback (Dermochelys coriacea), (4) Atlantic Green (Chelonia mydas), and (5) Hawksbill (Eretmochelys imbricata). To prepare the biological assessment, the NRC will need FPL input, as discussed by telephone by Dr. Michael Masnik of our staff, and Dr. Russ Wilcox of your environmental department.

On April 25, 1995, the NRC staff held a telephone conference with FPL staff during which we have mutually agreed that an initial visit to the St. Lucie site and a meeting would be beneficial to all parties, including a representative from the NMFS. The meeting would serve to determine the scope of the consultation and establish schedules and target dates for the various steps involved in the consultation process as well as any preliminary site mitigation approaches. The visit and the meeting are scheduled to start at 9:00 a.m. on May 23, 1995, at the St. Lucie site on Hutchinson Island, Florida.

The points of contact regarding this issue are: Jan Norris, Project Manager for the St. Lucie, Plant at 301-415-1483, Dr. Michael Masnik at 301-415-1191, or Steve Reynolds at 301-414-1115.

Sincerely,

(Original Signed By)

Jan A. Norris, Sr. Project Manager Project Directorate II-1 Division of Reactor Projects - I/II Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389

Enclosure: As stated

cc w/enclosure: See next page

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Mr. J. H. Goldberg Florida Power and Light Company

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