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50-389 St. Lucie Plant, Unit 2, Florida Power & Light Co. 05000389
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STALL, J.A. Florida Power & Light Co.
RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
Records Management Branch (Document Control Desk)

SUBJECT: NPDES noncompliance notification: on 990207, dead green turtle (chelonia mydas) weighing 7.5 lb recovered from plant intake canal. Caused by shoaling of sediments in canal where capture net deployed. Methods of capture net insp modified.

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March 1, 1999

L-99-45
10 CFR 50.36b
EPP 4.1

US Nuclear 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: February 7, 1999
Unusual or Important Environmental Event

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 a description of a reportable sea turtle mortality at the St. Lucie Plant. The 7.5-pound Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) is the first of this species for the year. The limits in the National Marine Fisheries Biological Opinion for this species is 3 or 1.5% of the total captured, whichever is greater.

Should you have any questions on this information, please contact us.

Very truly yours,

J. A. Stall
Vice President
St. Lucie Plant

JAS/GRM

Attachment

cc: Regional Administrator, Region II, USNRC
Senior Resident Inspector, USNRC, St. Plant

IE2311

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PDR ADOCK 05000335
S PDR



**ST LUCIE PLANT SEA TURTLE MORTALITY
30-DAY WRITTEN REPORT**

EVENT DESCRIPTION

At approximately 1700 hours on February 7, 1999, a dead Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) weighing 7.5 lbs. was recovered from the St. Lucie Plant intake canal. The turtle was found tightly entangled near the bottom of a capture net, which is used to catch turtles after they have entered the canal. This method normally captures sea turtles unharmed, so they can be tagged and released back into the ocean.

This is the first mortality for this species this year at the St. Lucie Plant. The limits for mortalities of this species in the National Marine Fisheries Biological Opinion, issued to the site by the NRC in 1997, is 3 or 1.5% of the total captured, whichever is greater.

CAUSE OF THE EVENT

It appears that the turtle drowned in the capture net, however, the turtle was sent to a Florida Department of Environmental Protection lab for necropsy. This evaluation could indicate any further contributing factors. The Plant Sea Turtle Protection Program requires that trained sea turtle personnel tend the nets while they are in the canal. The nets are also regularly inspected by boat, but this small turtle was apparently missed until the net was removed at the end of the day. A possible contributing factor is shoaling of sediments in the canal where the net is deployed, allowing the net to hang up on the canal bottom.

CORRECTIVE ACTIONS

Methods of capture net inspection were modified to allow most of the net to be observed in murky waters conditions. When the water clarity in the canal improves, the capture net anchor positions will also be set so as to not be in a position to snag on foreign objects lying on the bottom of the canal.

AGENCIES NOTIFIED

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection was notified in compliance with Marine Turtle Permit #99.

A 72-hour notification was made to the NRC at 1309 hours on February 9, 1999 in accordance with Section 4.1 of the Environmental Protection Plan (Appendix B of the Operating Licenses).

