



November 28, 2017

L-2017-205
10 CFR 50.4
10 CFR 50.36.b
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
Environmental Protection Plan Report
Event Date: November 2, 2017
Unusual or Important Environmental Event – Capture of a Smalltooth Sawfish.

On November 2, 2017, a smalltooth sawfish (*pristis pectinata*) was captured in the St. Lucie Plant Intake Cooling Canal. The fish was safely captured using the nets deployed in the canal for sea turtle captures. The fish was inspected and processed per our smalltooth sawfish protocol. The fish was healthy and released back into the environment in good condition.

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 this important event. This event is an important environmental event because it is the second sawfish captured at St. Lucie in 2017 and exceeds the site limit of one per five years.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Snyder
Licensing Manager
St. Lucie Plant

RICHARD C SCISCENTE FOR MJS

MJS/spt

Attachment

cc: FDEP Siting Office

IEZ3

NR R

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

On November 2, 2017, a smalltooth sawfish was captured in the St. Lucie Intake Cooling Canal. The fish was caught when it became entangled in our free floating sea turtle nets.

The length of the fish was 12.2 feet and weighed an estimated 400 pounds. Once captured, the fish was inspected, processed and released back into the environment in good condition. Sawfish processing and release activities were directed by a scientist from the Florida Atlantic University-Harbor Branch Oceanographic Institute. In addition, the staff biologists had received smalltooth sawfish handling training by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission on June 2, 2016.

St. Lucie also caught a sawfish on September 17, 2017. The second one caught on November 2, 2017 exceeded our capture limit of one sawfish per five years as stated in St. Lucie's Biological Opinion promulgated on March 24, 2016. This exceedance is expected to result in a Section 7 consultation by the NRC and the National Marine Fisheries Service.

CAUSE OF EVENT

The event occurred when the smalltooth sawfish swam into the St. Lucie Intake Cooling Canal. Once in the canal, the smalltooth sawfish was removed using the nets primarily used for the capture of sea turtles

CORRECTIVE ACTION

After the fish was released, the staff biologists monitored a three-mile stretch of the beach along the release site for any possible delayed impacts on the captured smalltooth sawfish for seven consecutive days. The canal east of the 5-inch turtle barrier is inspected hourly by boat and from the canal bank. The free floating turtle tangle nets were also inspected.

ACTIONS TO PRECLUDE FUTURE EVENTS

Due to the relatively narrow profile of a smalltooth sawfish, they can easily swim into the St. Lucie Intake Cooling Canal, thus additional captures are likely. The second capture of a sawfish in a six-week period is a testament to increasing numbers of the species.

AGENCIES NOTIFIED

The National Marine Fisheries Service and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission were notified on November 2, 2017.

A notification was made to the NRC on November 2, 2017 in accordance with the Site Environmental Protection Plan and the requirements of 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(xi).