

Public Service
Electric and Gas
Company

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Vice President and Chief Nuclear Officer

July 21, 1989

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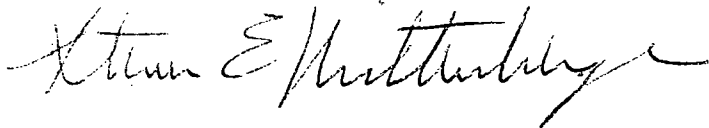
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Gentlemen:

REPORT OF IMPINGEMENT OF SEA TURTLES
SALEM GENERATING STATION, UNIT NOS. 1 AND 2
DOCKET NO. 50-272 AND 50-31

This report is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of Salem Unit 2 Environmental Technical Specifications, Sections 4.1.1 and 5.4.2a, b and c. This report is required within thirty (30) days of discovery.

Sincerely,



Attachment

C Mr. J. C. Stone, Licensing Project Manager
Ms. K. Halvey Gibson, Senior Resident Inspector

Mr. W. T. Russell, Administrator
Region I

Mr. Kent Tosch, Chief
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Environmental Quality
Bureau of Nuclear Engineering
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IMPINGEMENT OF SEA TURTLES

REPORT: July 17, 1989
OCCURRENCE DATE: July 1, 1989
FACILITY: Salem Generating Station, Units 1 and 2
Public Service Electric and Gas Company
Hancock's Bridge, NJ 08038

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE:

One Loggerhead (Caretta caretta) sea turtle was impinged on the Circulating Water System (CWS) intake trash bars at Salem Generating Station on July 1, 1989. The loggerhead is federally listed as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE:

July 1, 1989 - Unit 1, 98.5 percent power
Unit 2, 100 percent power

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE:

On July 1, 1989, at 0945 hours, one loggerhead sea turtle was reported on the trash bars of the CWS intake. Both units were at or near full power at the time the turtle was found.

The turtle was recovered during the cleaning of the trash racks by the on-duty intake operator. The Senior Shift Supervisor, Licensing and Regulation personnel, and the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) of Brigantine, New Jersey were immediately notified. The turtle was then brought to the MMSC where it was fed and maintained until July 10, 1989, when it was released. The turtle was an immature female in excellent condition, weighting 49 lbs., with a carapace length of 22 inches, and width of 18.5 inches. It was released approximately 6 miles offshore of Brigantine, New Jersey. The following agencies have been notified regarding this occurrence:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

APPARENT CAUSE OF OCCURRENCES:

Sea turtles are a summer migrant, common to Delaware Bay. Small numbers typically occur in the lower Delaware River near Salem during July through September. Past experience indicates that healthy sea turtles are usually able to avoid the approach velocity of the CWS intake, although occasionally one will become entrapped in the area of the trash bars. Some turtle mortalities are also attributed to animals which are injured by boats or commercial fishing operations, and then float into the area of the circulating water intake.

ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE:

The CWS intake is monitored for accumulation of debris, which is periodically removed. Any turtles which are observed in the area of the trash bars are recovered immediately. Between 1979 and present, a total of 45 sea turtles have been collected at or in the immediate vicinity of the plant. Of the thirty-nine turtles collected at the intake, twenty-seven (69%) were loggerhead sea turtles and twelve (31%) were Kemp's ridley sea turtles.

CORRECTIVE ACTION

The trash bars are observed at least once per eight hour shift and cleaned at least once per day. Any sea turtle observed on the trash bars is removed immediately. Resuscitation will be attempted if the turtle is not unquestionably dead. In accordance with standard procedure, all specimens will be held under appropriate conditions and turned over to the MMSC.