



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Habitat and Protected
Resources Division
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

50-272/311

September 9, 1992

Frank Thompson Jr.
Manager, Licensing and Regulation
Public Service Electric and Gas Company
Box 236, MCM 21
Hancock's Bridge, NJ. 08038

Dear Mr. Thompson:

Over the past few weeks, a total of 7 sea turtles have been taken at the Salem Nuclear Generating Station circulating water system intake structure. These takes include 4 live loggerheads, 2 fresh dead Kemp's ridleys and 1 fresh dead green turtle. As you know, the impacts of the Salem and Hope Creek Stations on endangered species have been considered, and the most recent Biological Opinion was issued in August, 1992. The Incidental Take Statement issued with that Opinion allowed only one lethal take of a Kemp's ridley. We have discussed this with your staff, and will reinitiate consultation with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1972, as amended.

Immediate measures should be taken to reduce the likelihood of further lethal takes of sea turtles. Monitoring of the intake structure should be increased to once per hour. Additionally, the monitoring staff should be instructed in careful observation for these smaller sea turtles, which may be more susceptible to drowning.

Colleen Coogan will continue to coordinate the reinitiated consultation with your staff and the NRC. She can be reached at (508) 281-9291 if you have any questions regarding this information.

Sincerely,

Douglas W. Beach

Douglas W. Beach
Coordinator
Protected Species Program

Add: Jim Stone^{Ltr}
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cc: ~~NRC - Stone~~
PSE&G - Eggers
Haberland
Griffin
F/NEO2 - Gorski
F/PR2 - Williams
File: 1514-04 NRC - Salem/Hope Creek