



JUN 14 2018

L-2018-128  
10 CFR 50.4  
10 CFR 50.36.b  
EPP 4.1

U.S. 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: May 29, 2018  
Unusual or Important Environmental Event - Turtle Mortality

On May 29, 2018 a dead juvenile green sea turtles (*Chelonia mydas*) was recovered from the east side of the St. Lucie Plant Intake cooling canal five-inch barrier net. A necropsy was performed that same day. The determination of the necropsy is that the mortality is causal due to forced submersion.

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 a reportable sea turtle mortality that was causal to plant operations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Snyder', is written over a large, stylized flourish.

Michael J. Snyder  
Licensing Manager  
St. Lucie Plant

MJS/rcs

Attachment

cc: FDEP Siting Office

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

On May 29, 2018 a dead juvenile green sea turtle (chelonian mydas) was recovered from the east side of the St. Lucie Plant Intake canal five-inch turtle barrier net. The sea turtle was sent to Nancy S. Mettee, DVM for necropsy on May 29, 2018.

The necropsy report determined that the mortality was causal due to forced submergence.

#### CAUSE OF EVENT

The most probable cause of the mortality is that the turtle was entrained in the plant's intake cooling system at the end of a breath cycle. The time required to traverse the intake pipe exceeded the turtle's air reserve.

#### CORRECTIVE ACTION

The five-inch turtle net was inspected by staff biologists directly after the mortality. No issues were identified that could have contributed to the mortalities. Hourly inspections of the five-inch net are performed during daylight hours, as well as constant surveillance of the two tangle nets.

#### ACTIONS TO PRECLUDE FUTURE EVENTS

Aggressive turtle monitoring and removal protocols remain in place; hourly inspections of the five-inch net and constant observations on the tangle nets occur during daylight hours. When visibility allows staff biologists perform hand and dip net turtle captures in an effort to minimize turtle residence time.

#### AGENCIES NOTIFIED

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission were notified on May 29, 2018 in accordance with Marine Turtle Permit# MTP-125 and the Site Environmental Protection Plan.

A notification was made to the NRC on May 29, 2018 in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 50.72(b) (2) (xi).