



NOV 09 2019

L-2019-199
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: October 13, 2019
Unusual or Important Environmental Event

On October 13, 2019 a deceased sub-adult male loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) was recovered from the east side of the St. Lucie Plant Intake cooling canal five-inch barrier net. A necropsy was performed October 14, 2019. The necropsy determined that the mortality was causally related to station operation.

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 descriptions of the sea turtle event.

Sincerely,


Wyatt Godes
Licensing Manager
St. Lucie Plant

WG/rcs

Attachment

cc: FDEP Siting Office

DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

On October 13, 2019 a deceased sub-adult loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) was recovered from the east side of the St. Lucie Plant Intake Canal's five-inch turtle barrier net. The sea turtle was sent to Nancy S. Mettee, DVM for necropsy the next day. The necropsy determined that the mortality was due to forced submergence, thus causal to plant operations.

The limits for sea turtle injuries and mortalities resulting from plant operations have not been exceeded.

CAUSE OF EVENT

Based on post mortem examination there were a number of chronic, debilitating diseases present in this turtle, any of which could have resulted in death. Ultimately, mortality is causal to plant activity due to forced submergence, however this turtle was greatly compromised by other diseases.

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 mortality. Hourly inspections of the five-inch net are performed during daylight hours, as well as constant surveillance of the two tangle nets that are deployed east of the five-inch turtle net.

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.

AGIENCES NOTIFIED

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission was notified on October 14, 2019 in accordance with Marine Turtle Permit# MTP-125 and the Site Environmental Protection Plan. A notification was made to the NRC on October 14, 2019 per the requirements of 10 CFR 50.72(b) (2)(xi).