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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

June 13, 1994

Docket No. 50-219

LICENSEE: GPU Nuclear Corporation  
FACILITY: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MAY 16, 1994 MEETING REGARDING BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT  
OF THE IMPACT OF THE OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION  
ON ENDANGERED SEA TURTLES

On May 16, 1994, the staff met with representatives from GPU Nuclear Corporation (GPUN), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and Energy (NJDEPE) to discuss GPUN's biological assessment of the impact of the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) on the Federally-protected Kemp's ridley (Lepidochelys kempii) and Loggerhead (Caretta caretta) sea turtles. This meeting is part of the formal consultation process with NMFS, and is the result of several incidental captures of the two species in the past several years at the OCNGS intake structure. A total of four sea turtles have been impinged on the intake racks at OCNGS since 1992: (1) one live loggerhead, (2) one live Kemp's ridley, (3) one loggerhead apparently dead on arrival due to boat propeller wounds, and (4) the latest capture of a dead Kemp's ridley on October 17, 1993. The cause of death of the Kemp's ridley is unknown, pending completion of a necropsy, but may have been the result of drowning. Enclosure 1 is the list of individuals participating in this discussion.

GPUN speculated that the increase in turtle activity seen in the past several years at OCNGS could be explained by (1) an increase in the population of Kemp's ridley and Loggerhead turtles due to the use of turtle exclusion devices (TEDs) by the commercial fishing industry, and (2) the completion of the re-alignment and deepening of the Barnegat inlet by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 1991 which permits a freer interchange of ocean and bay waters. As a preventive measure, GPUN proposed to increase their inspections of the intake racks from once per 8-hour shift during sea turtle season to twice per 8-hour shift after the first sighting or capture of a sea turtle, and to twice per 8-hour shift during the month of October, when both incidental captures of Kemp's ridleys have occurred.

NRC staff and NMFS both expressed concern that the requirement to inspect twice per 8-hour shift could be satisfied by inspections that occur at the beginning of the shift and again at the end of the shift, defeating the purpose for increasing the number of inspections. GPUN agreed to restate the requirement to resolve this concern.

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June 13, 1994

Based on the discussion at this meeting, GPUN will finalize the biological assessment which, if acceptable, will be submitted to NMFS by the NRC. The NRC staff expects to receive a biological opinion from NMFS in the fall of 1994.

Original signed by

Alexander W. Dromerick, Senior Project Manager  
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Division of Reactor Projects - I/II  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Enclosure:  
List of Attendees

cc w/enclosure:  
See next page

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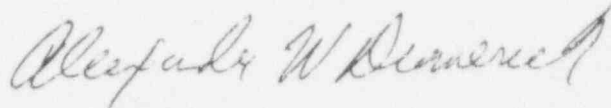
Docket File	JCalvo	ACRS (10)
NRC & Local PDRs	ADromerick	EDO, RI
PD I-4 Memo	SNorris	JFRogge, RI
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SVarga	MMasnik	PDLR R/F

OFFICE	LA:PDI-4	PM:PDI-4	D:PDI-4		
NAME	SNorris	ADromerick:cn	JStolz		
DATE	6/7/94	6/7/94	6/10/94	1/1	1/1

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June 13, 1994

Based on the discussion at this meeting, GPUN will finalize the biological assessment which, if acceptable, will be submitted to NMFS by the NRC. The NRC staff expects to receive a biological opinion from NMFS in the fall of 1994.



Alexander W. Dromerick, Senior Project Manager  
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List of Attendees

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OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION  
DOCKET NO. 50-219  
MEETING OF MAY 16, 1994 TO DISCUSS THE IMPACT OF  
OCNGS ON ENDANGERED SEA TURTLES

ATTENDANCE LIST

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Malcolm Browne	GPU Nuclear
Barry Durham	GPU Nuclear
Doug Moore	GPU Nuclear
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Mike Masnik	USNRC
Karen Wurst	NMFS/Sandy Hook
Kim Thounhurst	NMFS/Gloucester
Doug Beach	NMFS/Gloucester