



GPU Nuclear, Inc.  
U.S. Route #9 South  
Post Office Box 388  
Forked River, NJ 08731-0388  
Tel 609-971-4000

6530-982-2135

AUG 25 1998

Ms. Claudia Craig (by cert. mail RRR#Z 051 941 124)  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Mailstop O-10-H-5  
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Ms. Craig,

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station  
Docket 50-219  
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 98-1

This report provides detailed information regarding the recent incidental capture of a subadult loggerhead sea turtle at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. The turtle was captured alive during the morning of August 18, 1998 at the circulating water intake structure trash racks. As indicated on the attached incident report, the turtle has been transferred to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, NJ for rehabilitation. This is only the second incidental capture of a sea turtle at Oyster Creek since August of 1994.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Malcolm Browne of our Environmental Affairs Department at (609) 971-4124.

Very truly yours,

Michael B. Roche  
V. P. & Director  
OCNGS

MAB/ars  
Enclosure

cc: Ms. Nancy Haley (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 941 127)  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
Habitat and Protected Resources Division  
One Blackburn Drive  
Gloucester, MA 01930

9809100158 980825  
PDR ADOCK 05000219  
S PDR

0000011/1

JE23

**AUG 25 1998**

cc: Hub Miller (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 941 128)  
Administrator, Region 1  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
475 Allendale Road  
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Ron Eaton (by cert. mail RRR# Z051 941 129)  
Senior Project Manager  
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 941 130)  
Document Control Desk - NRC  
Washington, DC 20555

Mr. Dave Jenkins (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 941 126)  
NJ Department of Environmental Protection  
Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife  
P.O. Box 236  
Tuckahoe, NJ 08250

OCNGS NRC Resident Inspector, OC SEB

## Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

### Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 98-1

August 18, 1998

At approximately 0959 hours on Tuesday, August 18, 1998, an Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) operator noticed a sea turtle in front of the trash rack in Bay # 4 of the circulating water intake structure. The turtle was carefully removed as quickly as possible using a sea turtle dip net and found to be alive and moving about actively. However, a length of several feet of fish netting was wrapped tightly around the right front flipper of the turtle, causing restricted circulation and movement of that limb. It was apparent from the atrophied and partially decayed condition of the right front flipper that the turtle had been entangled in the fish netting long before its incidental capture. OCNGS Environmental Affairs personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be a subadult loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*). The water temperature at the time of the incidental capture was approximately 80.5 F (26.9 C) and OCNGS was in operation at full power with four circulating water pumps and two dilution pumps in operation. Although it is impossible to say precisely how long the turtle had been near the intake structure prior to removal, the intake trash racks had been mechanically cleaned the previous afternoon.

The turtle measured 20.0 in (50.8 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 53.9 lb (24.4 kg). Sex was not determined. No tags were present on the turtle when captured.

After the turtle was examined by Environmental Affairs personnel, it was transferred to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ. MMSC personnel then began to locate a facility where the turtle can receive appropriate medical treatment and rehabilitation prior to eventually being released in the ocean. Sea World of Orlando, FL has indicated they will provide these services. The turtle was transported to Sea World August 21, 1998.

USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the incidental capture within 24 hours on August 18, 1998.