



January 4, 2022

L-2022-006  
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: December 10, 2021  
Unusual or Important Environmental Event - Turtle Mortality

On December 10, 2021, a deceased subadult, female, loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) was recovered from the east side of the St. Lucie Plant Intake cooling canal five-inch barrier net. A necropsy was performed on December 12, 2021 with results provided to Florida Power & Light (FPL) on December 17, 2021. The determination is that the mortality was causal to plant operations 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.

If you should have any questions, please contact Vince Munné at 772-263-2847.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Wyatt Godes'.

Wyatt Godes  
Licensing Manager  
St. Lucie Plant

WG/rcs

Attachment

cc: FDEP Siting Office  
Audra Livergood, National Marine Fisheries Service  
Briana Grange, Biologist, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Meghan Koperski, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission

#### DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT

On December 10, 2021, a deceased subadult, female, loggerhead turtle (*Caretta caretta*) was recovered from the east side of the St. Lucie Plant Intake cooling canal five-inch barrier net. The sea turtle was sent to Nancy S. Mettee, DVM for necropsy.

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

The cause of the mortality on December 10, 2021 identified by the necropsy was due to forced submersion; however, the necropsy also recognized that the condition of the turtle's health had been adversely affected by cardiac and liver changes associated with heavy trematode parasite burden. The turtle's carapace also exhibited multiple boat propeller wounds.

#### 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 December 17, 2021 in accordance with Marine Turtle Permit MTP-125 and the Site Environmental Protection Plan. A notification was made to the NRC on December 17, 2021 per the requirements of 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(xi).