



April 5, 2022

L-2022-059
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: March 14, 2022
Unusual or Important Environmental Event - Turtle Mortality

On March 14, 2022, a deceased adult, male, Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) was recovered from the east side of the St. Lucie Plant intake cooling canal five-inch barrier net. A necropsy was performed on March 14, 2022 with results provided to Florida Power & Light (FPL) on April 1, 2022. 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
Regulatory Affairs 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 March 14, 2022, a deceased adult, male, Kemp's ridley turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) 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 March 14, 2022 identified by the necropsy was due to forced submersion; however, the necropsy also recognized that the turtle's health had been adversely affected by pre-existing conditions:

This adult male was compromised by long term previous injuries to carapace, extremities, and head. These handicaps likely resulted in reduced feeding, mobility, and thin body condition. Based on the location the body was discovered in and the acute injuries present, the mortality is, at least in part, related to plant activity. Drowning is suspected to be the ultimate cause of death, but the poor condition of the turtle more than contributed to the loss.

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 April 1, 2022 in accordance with Marine Turtle Permit MTP-125 and the Site Environmental Protection Plan. A notification was made to the NRC on April 1, 2022 per the requirements of 10 CFR 50.72(b)(2)(xi).