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U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Mr. Barry Zalcman, Mailstop O-11-F1
(by cert. mail RRR#Z 051 947 447)
Sea Turtle Coordinator
Washington, DC 20555

Dear Mr. Zalcman,

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket 50-219
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 99-2

This report provides detailed information regarding the recent incidental capture of a subadult green sea turtle at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. The turtle was captured dead during the morning of October 23, 1999 at the dilution intake structure trash racks. As indicated on the attached incident report, arrangements are being made to send the turtle to Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, for a necropsy. This is only the fourth incidental capture of a sea turtle at Oyster Creek since August of 1994 and the first green sea turtle ever captured at Oyster Creek.

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

MBR/MAB/ew

Enclosure

cc: Ms. Mary Colligan (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 947 448)
U.S. Department of Commerce
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat and Protected Resources Division
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930

IE23

cc: Mr. Hubert Miller (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 947 449)
Administrator, Region 1
US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
475 Allendale Road
King of Prussia, PA 19406

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Ms. Helen N. Pastis, Mailstop O-8-B1
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US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 947 451)
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Mr. Dave Jenkins (by cert. mail RRR# Z 051 947 452)
NJ Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Fish, Game, and Wildlife
P.O. Box 400
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OCNGS NRC Resident Inspector, OC SEB

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station

Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 99-2

October 23, 1999

At approximately 0200 hours on Saturday, October 23, 1999, an Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) operator removed a sea turtle in front of the trash rack in Bay # 4 of the dilution water intake structure. The turtle was carefully removed from the trash racks with a trash rake, and found to be inactive and either dead or comatose. Attempts were made to resuscitate the turtle for several hours after the incidental capture, but the attempts were unsuccessful. OCNGS Environmental Affairs personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be an immature green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*). The water temperature at the time of the incidental capture was approximately 62.8 F (17.1 C) and OCNGS was in operation at full power with four circulating water pumps and two dilution pumps operating. 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 day.

The turtle measured 10.6 in (27.0 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 6.1 lb (2.75 kg). Sex was not determined. No tags were present on the turtle when captured.

The cause of death was not immediately apparent. There were no obvious boat propeller wounds and no open wounds that would have been life threatening. After the turtle was examined by Environmental Affairs personnel, arrangements were made for it to be examined further by Dr. Steven Morreale, a Cornell University sea turtle expert who has conducted numerous necropsies on sea turtles in the past.

USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the incidental capture the following workday.