



**UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION**

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

February 22, 1999

Mr. J. A. Stall  
Site Vice President  
St. Lucie Nuclear Plant  
Florida Power and Light Company  
6351 S. Ocean Drive  
Jensen Beach, FL 34957

Dear Mr. Stall,

This letter is in regard to the proposed study of turtle entrapments at the St. Lucie plant intake canal as required by condition #7 of the incidental take statement (ITS) of the February 7, 1997, biological opinion (BO). The BO was the result of the Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act. In a letter dated May 8, 1998, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) provided the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) with revisions to the ITS of the BO. The revisions request FPL to propose a study and obtain NMFS approval prior to implementing the study. By letter dated June 17, 1998, NRC forwarded the revisions of the ITS to FPL and requested the St. Lucie plant implement the revised provisions in its Environmental Protection Plans. FPL provided the proposed changes to the St. Lucie Environmental Protection Plans implementing the ITS to NRC by letter dated August 26, 1998. By letter dated October 7, 1998, NRC forwarded FPL's draft request for proposal to design and implement a study to elucidate the effect of various factors on turtle entrapment to NMFS for review and approval.

NMFS has reviewed FPL's proposal for the turtle study and has concluded that it is acceptable. FPL should proceed with implementation of the study. Once a contract is in place, FPL should provide quarterly progress reports on the turtle study to NMFS. The ITS states the final report is to be completed by December 31, 1999. However, because the contract has not yet been placed, this date is not likely to be met. Therefore, once the contract is in place and the quarterly reports are being submitted, please provide a completion date for the final report. The NRC staff anticipates a date of completion of the study to be sometime in March 2000. This allows approximately two months for proposal solicitation, one month for contract awarding, six months for creating a draft report, and three months for finalizing the report. If you have any further questions regarding this matter please contact Ms. Claudia Craig at 301-415-1053.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W.C. Gleaves".

William C. Gleaves, Project Manager  
Project Directorate II-3  
Division of Licensing Project Management  
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389  
cc: See next page

**ENCLOSURE**

**Mr. J. A. Stall**  
Florida Power and Light Company

**ST. LUCIE PLANT**

**cc:**

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