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U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
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Washington, DC 20555

Gentleman:

**REPORT OF IMPINGEMENT OF SEA TURTLE
SALEM GENERATING STATION UNIT NO. 2
DOCKET NO. 50-311**

In accordance with Section 5.4.2 of Appendix B, Environmental Protection Plan, to the Operating License for the Salem Generating Station, PSEG Nuclear hereby transmits notification of a nonroutine event discovery, and documents the occurrence and removal of a live sea turtle from the Salem Generating Station circulating water intake structure.

Enclosed please find two (2) attachments. Attachment 1 gives a narrative description of the event, as requested by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Attachment 2, requested by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), provides more specific information regarding the observance and retrieval of the sea turtle.

Should you have any questions regarding this transmittal, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,


Gabor Salamon
Manager - Licensing

Attachments (2)

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 National Marine Fisheries Service
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ATTACHMENT 1

INCIDENTAL TAKE OF SEA TURTLE

OCCURRENCE DATE: August 31, 2000

FACILITY: Salem Generating Station, Unit 2
PSEG Nuclear LLC
Hancocks Bridge, NJ 08038

IDENTIFICATION OF OCCURRENCE:

A live sea turtle was recovered from the Circulating Water System (CWS) Intake trash racks at the Salem Generating Station. The sea turtle was recovered unharmed on August 31, 2000. The sea turtle was identified as a Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and except for one old propeller cut was in excellent condition. The sea turtle was photographed, examined, measured and weighed. Flipper tags were attached to both front flippers. Tag number QQP000 was attached to the right front flipper and tag number QQP975 was attached to the left front flipper. The sea turtle was released into the Delaware River approximately three miles south of Artificial Island. Loggerhead sea turtles are federally listed as "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

CONDITIONS PRIOR TO OCCURRENCE:

August 31, 2000	Unit 1	100 percent power
	Unit 2	100 percent power

DESCRIPTION OF OCCURRENCE:

The live sea turtle was recovered from trash rack 23 B of the CWS intake on August 31, 2000 at approximately 1000 hours. Site Services personnel recovered the sea turtle, which was apparently foraging at the bottom of the trash racks, during routine cleaning of the trash racks. The sea turtle was unharmed and released back to the Delaware River after being photographed, examined, measured, weighed and flipper tagged.

The following agencies have been notified regarding this occurrence:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)
U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP)
Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC)

APPARENT CAUSE OF OCCURRENCE:

Sea turtles are summer migrants, common to the Delaware Bay. Small numbers typically occur in the lower Delaware River near the Salem Generating Station from June through September. Healthy sea turtles are strong swimmers and are usually able to avoid the approach velocity of the CWS intake. Turtles, which are in a weakened condition due to injury by boats or commercial fishing operations, are subject to impingement. Apparently healthy turtles, which become impinged, may not be able to escape the approach velocity due to exhaustion or small size. Also large, apparently healthy turtles may be foraging in the intake channel. While feeding they may surface in the intake bays and if observed by plant personnel will be removed as if impinged, tagged, and released.

ANALYSIS OF OCCURRENCE:

The CWS intake is monitored for accumulation of debris throughout the year. This accumulated debris is periodically removed. Any sea turtles, which are observed in the area of the trash racks, are recovered immediately. Between 1979 and present, a total of 95 sea turtles (plus three recaptures) have been collected at or in the vicinity of the plant. Of the 91 turtles collected at the intake, sixty-five (71.4%) have been loggerhead sea turtles; twenty-four (26.4%) were Kemp's ridley sea turtles, and two (2.2%) green sea turtles.

CORRECTIVE ACTION:

The trash racks at Salem are cleaned at least three times per week between May 1 and November 15 and daily between June 1 and October 15. The trash racks are also inspected every two hours, twenty-four (24) hours a day between June 1 and October 15. Additionally, the ice barriers are removed from in front of the trash racks between May 4 and October 24. The specified time period

represents the peak migratory movement of sea turtles into and out of the Delaware River. Observations are made specifically for sea turtles and sturgeon during this time. During the remaining months the trash rack is inspected daily for debris load and cleaned as necessary. Any sea turtle occurrence is observed at this time. Resuscitation procedures will be attempted on all unconscious turtles. In accordance with standard procedure, a necropsy will be performed on all acceptable dead turtles and injured specimens will be held under appropriate conditions and may be turned over to the MMSC.

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ATTACHMENT 2

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS
Appendix II to Section 7 Consultation

Photographs should be taken and the information requested below should be collected in association with all protected species (sea turtles and shortnose sturgeon) impingements. This documentation should be sent to the:

National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Branch
One Blackburn Drive
Gloucester, MA 01930-2298

Protected Species Impingements
Salem and Hope Creek Generating Stations

Observers full name: William Cheeseman and David Griffith – PSEG Nuclear Site Services

Reporters full name: David Hurka – PSEG Nuclear Environmental Licensing

Species identification: Loggerhead Sea Turtle (*Caretta caretta*)

Site of impingement: Salem Generating Station – CWS Intake 23B

Date and time impingement was observed: 08/31/00 1000 hrs

Date and time of animal was collected: 08/31/00 1000 hrs

Tidal stage at time of collection: Flood Tide

Date and time of last observation of screen: 08/31/00 1000 hrs

Water temperature at site at time of impingement: 78.7⁰ (F)

Average percent of power generating capacity achieved per unit over the 48 hours previous to impingement: Unit 1 - 100 percent power
Unit 2 - 100 percent power

Condition of animal: Live

Sea Turtle Measurements:

Carapace Length: 63 cm SL
Carapace Width: 56.5 cm SL
Weight: 56.7 kg

Remarks: The sea turtle was identified as a Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*) and except for one old propeller cut was in excellent condition. The sea turtle was photographed, examined, measured and weighed. Flipper tags were attached to both front flippers. Tag number QQP000 was attached to the right front flipper and tag number QQP975 was attached to the left front flipper. The sea turtle was released into the Delaware River approximately three miles south of Artificial Island.