FOIA/PA REQUEST
Case No.: 2012-0043
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Specialist: Kelgore
Related Case:

FOIA Resource

From: environresources@gmail.com
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2012 5:44 PM
To: FOIA Resource
Subject: Goliath Grouper & Sea turtle mortality- failure to report: ocean intakes for Fl Power & Light at St. Lucie Nulear Reactor, Ft. Pierce, Florida

US Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Office of Inspector General & FOIA Coordinator

RE: FPL St. Lucie Nuclear Plant Ft. Pierce, FL Entrapment and loss of Goliath Grouper, failure to report and mortality of ESA listed Sea Turtles at ocean intake and screens

Dear Sirs/Madam:
We have discovered last August 2011, more than 4 tons(65-100 fish) of Goliath Grouper(avg. wt. 250 lbs), a rare and currently protected species, were killed at the screen intakes at the FPL-St. Lucie nuclear Power plant near Ft. Pierce, Florida. FPL failed to report this incident to either the NRC, National Marine Fisheries Service, USFWS nor the FL Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission in a timely manner. Not until December of 2011 was a report made. The actual tonage & numbers of grouper are unknown and research data on the grouper were lost when the carcasses were apparently landfilled.
We are requesting via FOIA all documents and findings from the NRC regarding this incident and the loss of sea turtles at this facility. We are requesting all documents, emails and comments with FPL and other federal/state agencies per the provisions of NEPA and the Endangered Species Act: biological opinions, previous reports to NMFS, USFWS and NRC, incidents of "take", Section 7 consultations with the USFWS, Biological Assessments, EIA or EA provisions for species protection, mitigation or monitoring as required under NEPA and any NRC documents referring to mitigation on all water intake plants in Florida to reduce these impacts, monitoring as required by ESA and NEPA and steps NRC, NMFS & USFWS are considering for protection of both fisheries and turtle resources for this nuclear power plant and other power plants in Florida.
1. We are requesting that NRC in cooperation with NMFS & USFWS Vero Beach field office, begin a NatResDamage Assessment regarding this incident, with funding to both correct this engineering problem and research/monitor short-term and long term possible solutions.
1a. We are investigating why NMFS in cooperation with the NRC, FLDEP & FLFWCC has not begun a Natural Res. Damage Assessment report for this incident, to determine if fines and FPL research are warranted, determine remedies to correct these faulty engineering designs and failures by FPL to adequately monitor j& report these impacts as required by NRC permits, NMFS and ESAct;
2. Why the three, 12 foot diameter intake pipes lack any screening at the intake point in the coral reef, to prevent the intake of 300 lb goliath grouper into the holding ponds and avoid turtle mortality in the same system. We understand that some 2.1mm gallons per minute are moved from the coral reef to the plant. Coral reefs have overgrown the intake pipes, making the structure resemble a cave, habitat often sought out by grouper and turtles.
3. Why there is no monitoring data for fisheries losses and turtle kills by FPL for their power plants, including the St.Lucie plant;
4. Why the NRC has not required FPL to take corrective action while the plant is shut down for maintenance;

We look forward to your response and urge the NRC to address these ongoing problems and ask FPL to remedy these issues.

Charles Sisco
ExDirector
Environmental Resources, Florida
member of the Indian River Lagoon Restoration Initiative &
IRL Foundation a 501c3 non-profit (in progress)
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