

April 2, 2001

Mr. Robert Hoffman
National Marine Fisheries Service
Southeast Region
Protected Species Division
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR FORMAL SECTION 7 CONSULTATION UNDER THE
ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REGARDING SEA TURTLES AT THE
CRYSTAL RIVER ENERGY COMPLEX (TAC NO. MB1562)

Dear Mr. Hoffman:

As discussed in the telephone call held on March 28, 2001, between the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Florida Power Corporation, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the NRC is requesting the re-initiation of formal consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act for the Crystal River Energy Complex (CREC). This request is based on the expectation that the take of sea turtles at the CREC will, in the near future, exceed the limits in the current Incidental Take Statement for that facility. The NRC will update and submit its biological assessment once it has collected and analyzed the data from the 2001 turtle season, which runs through the month of May.

The NRC understands that the NMFS interprets the count of sea turtle takings at the CREC, specified in Terms and Conditions No. 3, to begin on January 1, 2001.

The CREC will continue to implement the reasonable and prudent measures described in the current Incidental Take Statement in order to minimize impacts of incidental take of Kemp's ridley, green, loggerhead, leatherback, and hawksbill turtles.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please contact Jim Wilson at (301) 415-1108, or Michael Masnik at (301) 415-1191.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Herbert N. Berkow, Director
Project Directorate II
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No. 50-302

cc: See next page

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CRYSTAL RIVER UNIT NO. 3

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