

AmerGen Energy Company, LLC  
Oyster Creek  
US Route 9 South  
P.O. Box 388  
Forked River, NJ 08731-0388

An Exelon/British Energy Company

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US Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
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Washington, DC 20555

Subject: Oyster Creek Generating Station  
Docket 50-219  
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2003-2

This report provides detailed information regarding the recent incidental capture of a juvenile green sea turtle at the Oyster Creek Generating Station. The turtle was captured alive during the afternoon of October 24, 2003 after it was removed from the circulating water intake structure trash bars. As indicated on the attached incident report, the turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center in Brigantine, NJ for examination, care, and eventual safe release.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Malcolm Browne at (609) 971-4124.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. Massaro  
Plant Manager

MJM/MEB/dl  
Enclosure

cc: Ms. Carrie Upite  
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Protected Resources Division  
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IE23

cc: Mr. Hubert Miller, Administrator, Region 1  
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## OYSTER CREEK GENERATING STATION

### Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 2003-2

At approximately 0850 hours on Friday October 24, 2003, an Oyster Creek Generating Station (OCGS) operator performing a routine cleaning of the trash racks noticed a sea turtle against Bay # 4 of the circulating water intake structure. The turtle was found to be apparently healthy and moving about normally. OCGS Environmental personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be a juvenile green sea turtle (Chelonia mydas). The water temperature at the time of the incidental capture was approximately 53 F (11.7 C) and OCGS was in operation at 98% power with three circulating water pumps and two dilution pumps in operation. Although it is impossible to say precisely how long the turtle had been on the trash bars prior to removal, the circulating water trash racks had been inspected earlier the same morning at 0500 hours. The turtle was not observed during that trash rack inspection.

The turtle measured 14.2 in (36.2 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 15.3 lb (6.9 kg). Sex was not determined. Some small scrapes and chips were observed on the dorsal and lateral surfaces of the carapace. No tags were present on the turtle when captured. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the capture within 24 hours on October 24, 2003.

The turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ at approximately 1030 hours on October 24, 2003. At the MMSC, the turtle was examined and fed. The scrapes on the carapace were determined not to be a significant concern. The turtle was held at the MMSC until arrangements were made to transfer it to the Virginia Marine Science Museum (VMSM). VMSM is a more southerly location where the turtle could be observed, fed, and eventually released without fear of it dying due to cold shock.

## SEA TURTLE STRANDING AND SALVAGE NETWORK - STRANDING REPORT

## OBSERVER'S NAME / ADDRESS / PHONE:

First Henry M.I. J. Last PageAffiliation Field TechnicianAddress PO Box 773, Brigantine, NJ 08203Area code/Phone number 609-266-0538

## STRANDING DATE:

Year 2003 Month 10 Day 24

Turtle number by day 01

Coordinator must be notified within 24 hrs.  
this was done by Xphone (609)266-0538☐ email ☐ fax

## SPECIES: (check one)

☐ CC = Loggerhead☒ CM = Green☐ DC = Leatherback☐ EI = Hawksbill☐ LK = Kemp's Ridley☐ LO = Olive Ridley☐ UN = Unidentified

Check Unidentified if not positive. Do Not Guess.

Carcass necropsied? ☐ Yes ☐ NoPhotos taken? X Yes ☐ NoSpecies verified by coordinator? X Yes ☐ No

## SEX:

☐ Undetermined☐ Female ☐ Male

Does tail extend beyond carapace?

☐ Yes; how far? \_\_\_\_\_ cm / in☐ No

How was sex determined?

☐ Necropsy☐ Tail length (adult only)STRANDING LOCATION: ☐ Offshore (Atlantic or Gulf beach) ☒ Inshore (bay, river, sound, inlet, etc.)State New Jersey Parish OceanDescriptive location (be specific) Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station, on cooling intakeLatitude 39°30'18.0" N Longitude 74°24'43.6" W

## CONDITION: (check one)

☒ 0 = Alive☐ 1 = Fresh dead☐ 2 = Moderately decomposed☐ 3 = Severely decomposed☐ 4 = Dried carcass☐ 5 = Skeleton, bones only

## TAGS: Contact coordinator before disposing of any tagged animal!!

Checked for flipper tags? X Yes ☐ No

Check all 4 flippers. If found, record tag number(s) / tag location / return address

PIT tag scan? X Yes ☐ No

If found, record number / tag location

Coded wire tag scan? ☐ Yes X No

If positive response, record location (flipper)

Checked for living tag? X Yes ☐ No

If found, record location (scute number &amp; side)

## FINAL DISPOSITION: (check)

☐ 1 = Left on beach where found; painted? ☐ Yes ☐ No☐ 2 = Buried: ☐ on beach / ☐ off beach; carcass painted before buried? ☐ Yes ☐ No☐ 3 = Salvaged: ☐ all / ☐ part(s), what/why?☐ 4 = Picked up on beach/dune; painted? ☐ Yes ☐ No☐ 6 = Alive, released☒ 7 = Alive, taken to rehab. facility, where? MMSC☐ 8 = Left floating, not recovered; painted? ☐ Yes ☐ No☐ 9 = Disposition unknown; explain \_\_\_\_\_

If painted, what color? \_\_\_\_\_

## CARAPACE MEASUREMENTS: (see drawing)

Using callipers

Straight length (NOTCH-TIP) 14 cm / in Circle unit

Minimum length (NOTCH-NOTCH) \_\_\_\_\_ cm / in

Straight width (Widest Point) 12 cm / in

Using non-metal measuring tape

Curved length (NOTCH-TIP) \_\_\_\_\_ cm / in Circle unit

Minimum length (NOTCH-NOTCH) \_\_\_\_\_ cm / in

Curved width (Widest Point) \_\_\_\_\_ cm / in

Weight: ☒ actual / ☐ est. 15.3 kg / lb Circle unit

Mark wounds / abnormalities on diagrams at left and describe below (note tar or oil, gear, or debris entanglement, propeller damage, epibionts, papillomas, emaciation, etc.). Please note if no wounds / abnormalities are found. Alive. No obvious injuries. Possibly cold stunned. Alert but lethargic. Heavy algal growth and numerous barnacles on carapace. Transferred to VMSM for further rehabilitation.

