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 50-251 Turkey Point Plant, Unit 4, Florida Power and Light Co. 05000251.
 AUTH. NAME: UHRIG, R.E. AUTHOR AFFILIATION: Florida Power & Light Co.,
 RECIP. NAME: VARGA, S.A. RECIPIENT AFFILIATION: Operating Reactors Branch 1

SUBJECT: Forwards info re rare & endangered species occurring at facility or vicinity, in response to 800822. ltr.

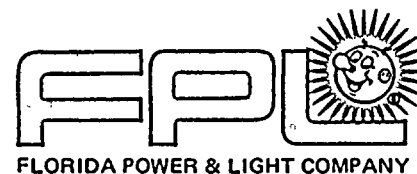
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November 24, 1980
L-80-388

Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
Attention: Steven A. Varga, Chief
Operating Reactors Branch #1
Division of Licensing
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Dear Mr. Varga:

Re: Turkey Point Units 3 and 4
Docket Nos. 50-250 and 50-251
Steam Generator Repair

In your letter of August 22, 1980, enclosure 2, you included a "Request For Additional Information on the Occurrence of Endangered Species" as contained in a "List of State and Federally Recognized Rare or Endangered Species Known From the Turkey Point Area" which was attached. That list contained six (6) Federally recognized endangered or threatened species:

1. American crocodile -- endangered
2. American alligator -- threatened
3. Atlantic green turtle -- endangered
4. Eastern Indigo snake -- threatened
5. Bald eagle -- endangered
6. Brown pelican -- endangered

That list also contained, however, eight (8) birds which have been designated by the State of Florida Game and Fish Commission as either "threatened" or "species of special concern" pursuant to state regulations, but which have not been listed by the Secretary of Interior as either "endangered" or "threatened" pursuant to Federal regulations.

The Endangered Species Act, as amended, (15 U.S.C. §1531 et. seq.) authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to determine by regulation whether any species of fish, wildlife or plants is an endangered species or a threatened species (15 U.S.C. §1533(a)(1), and to publish in the Federal Register a list of all species determined to be endangered or threatened (15 U.S.C. §1533(c)(1)). Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (15 U.S.C. §1536(c)), as amended, further provides that a Federal Agency is required to request from the Secretary of the Interior "....information whether a species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed (Agency) action. If the Secretary advises, based on the best scientific and commercial data available, that such species may be present, such Agency shall conduct a biological assessment for the purpose of identifying any endangered species or threatened species which is likely to be affected by such action."

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Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation
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In connection with the proposed steam generator repair project at Turkey Point, we understand that a request for information was made by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to the Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). (June 19, 1980 letter from Varga to Black.) We further understand that FWS has advised that eleven (11) Federally listed threatened or endangered species may occur in the area. (Letter of July 14, 1980 from Hankla to Varga; letter of July 25, 1980 from Oberhau to Varga.) These are:

1. Manatee -- endangered
2. Brown pelican -- endangered
3. American alligator -- threatened
4. Loggerhead turtle -- threatened
5. Green turtle -- endangered
6. Leatherback turtle -- endangered
7. Hawksbill turtle -- endangered
8. Kemp's (Atlantic) Ridley -- endangered
9. Eastern Indigo snake -- threatened
10. American crocodile -- endangered
11. Bald eagle -- endangered

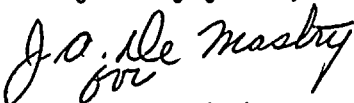
In our response of September 24, 1980 (L-80-319) and October 31, 1980 (L-80-368), we furnished you with information about both the Federally listed and non-Federally listed species referenced in your August 22, 1980 letter.

However, in reviewing the matter further, we believe that as to the biological assessment required by the Endangered Species Act only the Federally listed species are to be considered by NRC, and species which are not Federally listed, but which have been otherwise designated as "endangered" or "species of special concern" by the State of Florida should not be included in that assessment. You may, of course, wish to consider the non-Federally listed species in the DES and Final EIS to be prepared by NRC under NEPA.

We also believe it would be helpful to submit this information in the format which FWS has indicated it requests when an Agency prepares a biological assessment in order for FWS to formulate a biological opinion under the Endangered Species Act. Consequently, we hereby submit information with respect to twelve (12) Federally listed endangered or threatened species which may occur in the area. This information differs from information earlier submitted only in that the manatee (which was not included in the Request for Additional Information) is addressed, and the format is as required for the Biological Assessment.

If you have any further questions about this matter, please call me immediately.

Very truly yours,



Robert E. Uhrig
Vice President
Advanced Systems & Technology
REU/LFR/ah

cc: J. P. O'Reilly, Region II
Harold F. Reis, Esquire

RARE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES
THAT MAY OCCUR AT THE
TURKEY POINT SITE OR VICINITY

Based on extensive studies conducted since 1972 as part of the monitoring requirements for Nuclear Regulatory Commission Environmental Technical Specifications (NRC-ETS), twelve species as listed under the Endangered Species Act may occur in the air space, in the aquatic environment, or on the land of the Turkey Point Site or vicinity (Table 1.)

Two species, the American Crocodile and the West Indian Manatee, have critical habitats adjoining or encompassing the Turkey Point Site.

The survey methods used to determine the presence of the listed species consist of standard biological techniques, and most methods were adopted to satisfy the NRC-ETS requirements. The monitoring programs are summarized in Table 2 and have been underway since 1972, except where noted.

All data required by the NRC-ETS have been collected and reported to the NRC on a semi-annual or annual basis. For the crocodilian program, there was a reduction in effort during the period of May-August, 1979 when the survey activities were conducted with volunteer effort. Increased activity resumed during the September-December, 1979 period with the award of a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Grant.

SPECIES ACCOUNT

American Crocodile

The American Crocodile has been known to utilize the Turkey Point Cooling Canal System and adjacent areas since 1975, when it was first observed. The animals occur in the more remote areas of the Turkey Point Cooling Canal System (e.g. the western part of the system 2-9 km from the Turkey Point Plant). This information is based on sightings (aerial and terrestrial), capture/mark/release data, and radiotelemetry. All age groups (adults, subadults, juveniles and hatchlings) are represented in the population and the animals are known to use the area for feeding, loafing, and nesting. Mating has not been observed.

It is estimated that 6-16 adults, subadults, and juvenile crocodiles reside at or near the Turkey Point Site on a year-round basis. The range in number of animals present is due to the dynamic nature of the population. Three documented nests on the berms of the cooling canals have been recorded for 1978 and 1979. From these nests, 44 hatchlings have been captured, marked, and released. One 1978 and four 1979 hatchlings are known to have survived through June, 1980. Based on multiple recaptures on the Turkey Point Site of one hatchling over a 9-month period, the animal grew from 25 cm length and 52 g weight to 66 cm and 1100 g. Another 1979 hatchling, originally captured shortly after nest emergence,

had a weight of 62 g and a length of 28.1 cm. In 1980 and 14 months later, the animal weighed 2350 g and was 88.2 cm in length. Growth data of other hatchlings are similar but not as complete. Multiple recaptures of adults have shown no growth or weight changes; this is to be expected because the adult animals are near the asymptote of their growth curve.

Possible recruitment into the population at the Turkey Point Site has been observed during 1980 when an unknown male (e.g. not previously marked) of 1.5 m in length (10.4 kg) and a female of smaller size were captured, marked, and released on the site.

Critical habitat for the crocodile includes the Turkey Point Cooling Canal System and adjacent areas.

Turkey Point Units 3 and 4 have been in operation since 1972 including outages for inspection, refueling, and maintenance. Water discharges and releases occur both during normal operation and outages as permitted by the plant technical specifications. Based on the past operational mode and history of the units concomitant with the documented presence of the crocodile with observed nesting, feeding, loafing, and growing, and based on the fact that the proposed action and its impacts outside the restricted area are projected to be no greater than those resulting from normal operations and outages, any direct, secondary or cumulative effects are not expected on the animal or its critical habitat.

Loggerhead, Green, Leatherback, Hawksbill, and Kemp's
Ridley Turtles

Of all the sea turtles found in Biscayne Bay, Card Sound and Barnes Sound, on a temporary or seasonal basis, only the Atlantic Green and Atlantic Loggerhead have been observed in the Turkey Point Cooling Canal System. These were isolated individuals that were entrapped when the Cooling Canal System was permanently isolated from Biscayne Bay in 1973.

Several Loggerhead and Green Turtles have been captured in the System since 1972 and released to Biscayne Bay (prior to their federal listing). In 1980 one Loggerhead Turtle, apparently having lived in the System since 1972, was captured in the System and released to Biscayne Bay. One or two Loggerhead or Green Turtles may still be at large in the 2400 hectare System.

Because the proposed action will not impact Biscayne Bay, Card Sound and Barnes Sound where these sea turtles may occur, any direct, secondary, or cumulative effects are not projected to occur.

American Alligator

Because the American Alligator prefers freshwater wetlands, the saline aquatic environment of the Turkey Point Site and vicinity are marginal for this species. Nevertheless, 2-15 sightings of alligators per year occur on the western part of the Turkey Point Cooling Canal System and adjacent canals.

Adult to sub-adult animals have been reported on a year-round basis.

Because the proposed action will not impact the alligator or its habitat, any direct, secondary, or cumulative effects are not projected to occur

Eastern Indigo Snake

One or two sightings per year of the Eastern Indigo Snake have been reported from the western part of the Turkey Point Site and vicinity. The snake inhabits upland habitats, such as tree islands present in the area, but generally would not utilize the saline habitat predominant in the eastern part of the Turkey Point Site.

Because the proposed action will not impact the habitat where the indigo may occur, any direct, secondary, or cumulative effects are not projected to occur.

Eastern Brown Pelican

The Brown Pelican is a permanent resident of the Turkey Point Site and vicinity. Colonies of one to many individuals roost in mangroves fringing shorelines and islands of Biscayne Bay, Card Sound and Barnes Sound. Nesting has not been documented near the Turkey Point Site, but is presumed to occur because the habitat is correct. Individuals as well as groups are seen flying over and feeding from the shallow-water estuarine areas adjacent to the site.

Because the proposed action will not impact Biscayne Bay, Card Sound, Barnes Sound, and the mangroves adjoining the shoreline where the pelicans may occur, any direct, secondary, or cumulative effects are not projected to occur.

Peregrine Falcon

The Peregrine Falcon is an uncommon winter resident of South Florida and individuals have been observed on an occasional basis in sawgrass and mangrove areas in the vicinity of the Turkey Point Site.

Because the proposed action will not impact the falcon or its wintering habitat, such as mangroves or sawgrass areas, any direct, secondary, or cumulative effects are not projected to occur.

Southern Bald Eagle

The Southern Bald Eagle is a permanent resident of South Florida and one or two individuals per year are observed in the air space of the Turkey Point Site or vicinity. A nest was built on an island in Biscayne Bay approximately 6 km southeast of the Turkey Point Plant, but nesting was not successful in 1975 or 1976. Since 1976, there have been no reports of this nest being active.

Because the proposed action will not impact the eagle or its habitat, any direct, secondary, or cumulative effects are not projected to occur.

West Indian Manatee

The West Indian Manatee has been observed in the vicinity of the site in Biscayne Bay, Card Sound and Barnes Sound, and in adjacent canals. The animals are widely scattered around the periphery of these water bodies. Manatee sightings around the Turkey Point Site have occurred throughout the year and generally involve a single animal or a mother/calf pair.

Critical habitat for the manatee adjoins the Turkey Point Site and consists of the aquatic areas of Biscayne Bay, Card Sound and Barnes Sound.

Because the proposed action will not impact Biscayne Bay, Card Sound, Barnes Sound, and adjacent canals where the manatee may occur, any direct, secondary, or cumulative effects are not projected to occur on the animal or its critical habitat.

Conclusions

The actions proposed will not likely threaten the continued existence of the 12 rare and endangered species reviewed. The actions also will not result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat for the two species reviewed.

No further studies are recommended.

Table 1. Rare and Endangered Species that May Occur at the Turkey Point Site or Vicinity (Nomenclature According to: Florida Committee on Rare and Endangered Plants and Animals, 1978)

Endangered:

American Crocodile (Crocodylus acutus)

Southern Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus leucocephalus)

West Indian Manatee (Trichechus manatus latirostris)

Eastern Brown Pelican (Pelecanus occidentalis carolinensis)

Atlantic Green Turtle (Chelonia mydas mydas)

Atlantic Leatherback Turtle (Dermochelys coriacea)

Atlantic Hawksbill Turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata imbricata)

Kemp's (Atlantic) Ridley Turtle (Lepidochelys kempii)

Peregrine Falcon (Falco peregrinus)

Threatened:

American Alligator (Alligator mississippiensis)

Atlantic Loggerhead Turtle (Caretta caretta caretta)

Eastern Indigo Snake (Drymarchon corais couperi)

Table 2. Monitoring Programs for Flora and Fauna at the
Turkey Point Site or Vicinity
(Adapted from: Turkey Point Annual Non-Radiological
Environmental Monitoring Report - 1979)

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Frequency of Sampling</u>	<u>No. of Sampling Stations</u>	<u>Sampling Gear or Techniques</u>
Aquatic			
Plankton			
Zooplankton	Quarterly	15	Plankton Net
Phytoplankton	Quarterly	13	Whole-water Sample
Fish and Shellfish	Monthly	10	Gill-net Fish Trap
Benthos	Semi-annually	11	Benthic Grab
Sea Grasses and macrophyte dis- tribution	Opportunistic	Entire canal area	Visual Survey
Sea Grass Recovery	Semi-annually	Grand canal area	Visual Survey Quadrat Transect
Terrestrial			
Revegetation of Cooling Canal Berms	Semi-annually	6	Quadrat
Faunal Survey	Opportunistic (Intensive in 1976-1977)	Entire Area	Visual Survey
Floral Survey	Annual	9	Transect Visual Survey
Special Program			
Crocodilian Survey	Continually since 1977	Entire Area	Capture/Mark/ Release Radiotelemetry Visual Survey