

Nuclear

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Toll-free Direct Dial Number:
6530-94-2087
July 26, 1994

Mr. Michael Masnik
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
One White Flint North
11555 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20832

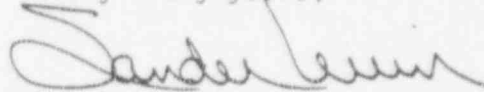
Dear Mr. Masnik:

Subject: Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Docket 50-219
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Reports 94-2 through 94-4

These reports provide detailed information regarding the recent impingement of sea turtles at the Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station. Dead juvenile Kemp's ridley turtles were captured July 1 and July 12, 1994 at the dilution structure trash racks. A dead subadult loggerhead turtle was also captured July 6 at the dilution structure trash racks. A necropsy was performed on the loggerhead turtle at the Marine Mammal Stranding Center; the results are included as an attachment to this report. The two Kemp's ridley turtles have been sent to experts at Cornell University to perform necropsies.

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

Very truly yours,



for John J. Barton
Vice President and Director
Oyster Creek

JJB/MEB/ef
Enclosure

cc: Mr. Douglas Beach
U.S. Department of Commerce
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National Marine Fisheries Ser.
Habitat Protected Res. Div.
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Mr. Dave Jenkins
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Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 94-2

July 1, 1994

At approximately 1000 hours on Friday, July 1, 1994, an Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) operator conducting a routine survey of the intake area noticed a sea turtle during a routine cleaning of the dilution intake structure trash racks. The turtle was carefully removed as quickly as possible and found to be inactive and exhibited a strong odor of decomposition. OCNGS Environmental Affairs personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be a juvenile Kemp's ridley turtle (Lepidochelys kemp) and tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate it. At the time of the capture OCNGS was in operation at full power with 4 circulating water pumps and 2 dilution pumps operating. The water temperature in the OCNGS intake canal at the time of the capture was approximately 78.3°F (25.7°C). Although it was impossible to say precisely how long the turtle had been at the intake structure prior to removal, it is known that the intake bay in which the turtle was found was cleaned during the previous afternoon.

The turtle measured 10.9 in. (27.7 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 8.0 lbs. (3.6 kg). Sex was not determined. No tags were present on the turtle when captured. No prominent scars or slash-like propeller wounds were apparent on the turtle. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the capture at the earliest opportunity (7-1-94).

This turtle has been sent to marine turtle experts at the Center for the Environment, Cornell University, who will perform a thorough necropsy.

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 94-3

July 6, 1994

At approximately 0615 hours on Wednesday, July 6, 1994, Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) operators conducting routine cleaning of the dilution pump intake area removed a sea turtle from the dilution structure trash racks. OCNGS Environmental Affairs personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be a subadult loggerhead turtle (Caretta caretta) and tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate it. At the time of the capture OCNGS was in operation at full power with 4 circulating water pumps and 2 dilution pumps operating. The water temperature in the OCNGS intake canal at the time of the capture was approximately 80.5°F (26.9°C). Although it was impossible to say precisely how long the turtle had been at the intake structure prior to removal, the trash racks at the dilution intake had previously been cleaned 6-8 hours earlier.

The turtle measured 24.5 in. (61.4 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 89.0 lbs. (40.4 kg). Sex was not determined. No tags were present on the turtle when captured. At least three deep scars or slash-like propeller wounds were apparent on the turtle. These scars were not fresh because blue mussels were attached and growing in these scars. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the capture at the earliest opportunity (7-6-94).

Several hours after the time of its capture, the turtle was taken to the Marine Mammal Stranding Center (MMSC) in Brigantine, NJ. Robert Schoelkopf, MMSC Director, performed a necropsy of the carcass (see attached MMSC Stranding Report). Mr. Schoelkopf reported that the turtle did not die at the intake and did not suffocate. The lungs were found to be in good condition. The turtle was believed to have died one to two days prior to arriving at OCNGS, probably due to a longterm illness. A large notch along the left perimeter of the turtle's carapace, as well as deterioration of all four appendages, were attributed by Schoelkopf to bacterial or fungal infections.

SEA TURTLE STRANDING AND SALVAGE NETWORK - STRANDING REPORT

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND FILL IN ALL APPLICABLE BLANKS. Use codes below. Measurements may be straight line (caliper) and/or over the curve (tape measure). Measure length from the center of the nuchal notch to the tip of the most posterior marginal. Measure width at the widest point of carapace. CIRCLE THE UNITS USED. See diagram below. Please give a specific location description. INCLUDE LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE.

Observer's Full Name MARINE MAMMAL STRANDING CENTER Stranding Date 94 - 07 - 06

Address / Affiliation Brigantine, N.J.

Area Code / Phone Number 609-266-0538

Species CC (Loggerhead) Turtle Number By Day 94-060

Reliability of I.D.: (CIRCLE) Unsure Probable Positive Species Verified by State Coordinator? Yes ☒ No ☐

Sex: (CIRCLE) Female Male Undetermined How was sex determined? Necropsy

State NEW JERSEY County Ocean

Location (be specific and include closest town) Oyster Creek Nuclear Power Plant,

Forked River

Latitude 39 48' 52" Longitude 74 12' 05"

Condition of Turtle (use codes) 1 Final Disposition of Turtle (use codes) 7

Tag Number(s) (include tag return address and disposition of tag) NA

Remarks (note if turtle was involved with tar or oil, gear or debris entanglement, wounds or mutilations, propellor damage, papillomas, epizoa, etc.) continue on back if necessary

Carapace deteriorated due to fungal growth, All four appendages deteriorated (possible bacterial infection) Photos taken, Stomach and esophogase contained blue crabs, no tag scars, Field # 94-060

MEASUREMENTS: CIRCLE UNITS

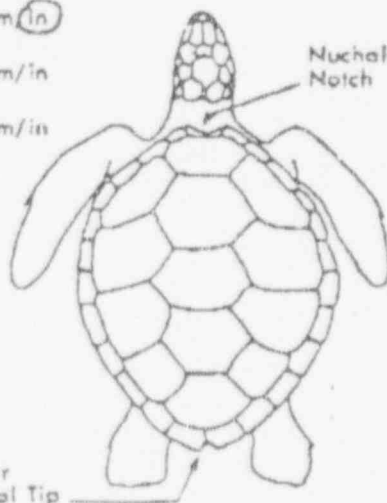
Straight Length 24.5 cm/in

Straight Width 19.75 cm/in

Curved Length _____ cm/in

Curved Width _____ cm/in

Mark wounds, abnormalities, and tag locations



CODES:

SPECIES:

CC = Loggerhead
CM = Green
DC = Leatherback
EI = Hawksbill
LK = Kemp's ridley
UN = Unidentified

CONDITION OF TURTLE:

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

FINAL DISPOSITION OF TURTLE:

1 = Painted, left on beach
2 = Buried: on beach / off beach
3 = Salvaged specimen: all / part
4 = Pulled up on beach or dune
5 = Unpainted, left on beach
6 = Alive, released
7 = Alive, taken to a holding facility

Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station
Sea Turtle Incidental Capture Report 94-4

July 12, 1994

At approximately 2240 hours on Tuesday, July 12, 1994, Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station (OCNGS) operators conducting routine cleaning of the dilution intake trash racks removed a sea turtle from the trash racks. The turtle was found to be inactive but had no apparent wounds. OCNGS Environmental Affairs personnel who took custody of the turtle confirmed it to be a juvenile Kemp's ridley turtle (Lepidochelys kemp) and tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate it. At the time of the capture OCNGS was in operation at full power with 4 circulating water pumps and 2 dilution pumps operating. The water temperature in the OCNGS intake canal at the time of the capture was approximately 83°F (28.4°C). Although it was impossible to say precisely how long the turtle had been at the intake structure prior to removal, it may have been there for up to several hours.

The turtle measured 10.5 in. (26.7 cm) carapace length straight line and weighed 7.3 lbs. (3.3 kg). Sex was not determined. No tags were present on the turtle when captured. No prominent scars or slash-like propeller wounds were apparent on the turtle. USNRC and NMFS personnel were notified of the capture at the earliest opportunity (7-13-94).

This turtle has been sent to marine turtle experts at the Center for the Environment, Cornell University, who will perform a thorough necropsy.