

**From:** [Audra Livergood - NOAA Federal](#)  
**To:** [Arlene, Briana](#)  
**Cc:** [Eldridge, Jodie](#); [Eaton, Kristin](#); [Jennifer Schull](#)  
**Subject:** [External\_Sender] NMFS's Biological Opinion for Continued Operation of the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant  
**Date:** Monday, August 15, 2022 7:51:31 AM  
**Attachments:** [SERO-2019-03494 Reinitiation St. Lucie BO\\_Final.pdf](#)

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Good morning Briana, Jodie, and Kristin,

Please find attached NMFS's Biological Opinion for the Continued Operation of the St. Lucie Nuclear Power Plant. Of note, we removed the excluder requirement and replaced it with the following:

**The NRC must ensure FPL designs, tests, constructs, and implements a deterrent(s) at the 3 intake structures that will reduce the number of sea turtles entering the SLNPP intake canal. The deterrent(s) selected by FPL must not adversely affect any ESA-listed species under NMFS's purview (for further details, see the implementing Terms and Conditions for RPM 1).**

We believe RPM 1 and its implementing Terms and Conditions (once the deterrent is fully operational) will minimize the amount of sea turtle take currently occurring at the plant while not causing an undue financial burden for FPL.

Please also note the reporting requirements/Terms and Conditions that implement RPM 2. These requirements are intended to supplement (not replace) the monthly take reports from FPL. Please continue to send us the monthly take report emails.

For giant manta rays, please refer to Appendix A of the Opinion. These safe handling, tagging, and release requirements were developed in collaboration with the Georgia Aquarium, the Marine Megafauna Foundation, and Inwater Research Group with the intent of maximizing the information obtained from released animals while minimizing handling time and ensuring the safety of animals and personnel.

We look forward to further cooperation with NRC and FPL to ensure the conservation of our threatened and endangered marine species. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me by email or Google Voice (786-351-2225).

Kind regards,  
Audra

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**Audra Banks**

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