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 FACIL: 50-335 St. Lucie Plant, Unit 1, Florida Power & Light Co. 05000335
 50-389 St. Lucie Plant, Unit 2, Florida Power & Light Co. 05000389

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 RECIP. NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION
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SUBJECT: Informs that on 950503, upon completion of scheduled annual emergency drill, including full scale siren activation & sounding, notifications received from public that siren not heard. Siren sys checked & deemed operational on 950505.

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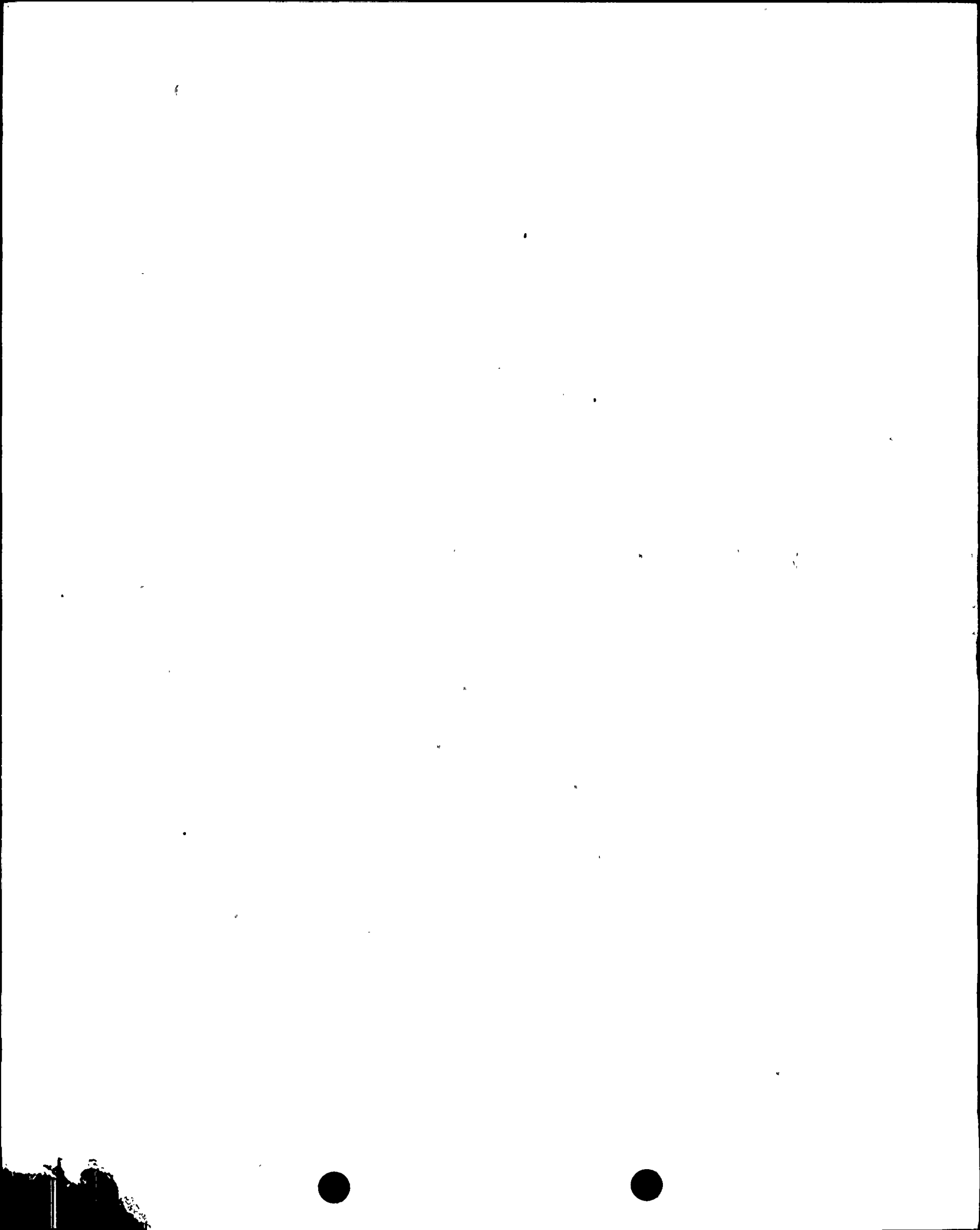
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June 2, 1995



L-95-161
10 CFR 50.4

U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Attn: Document Control Desk
Washington, D. C. 20555

Re: St. Lucie Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389
Whelen WPS 3000 Sirens

On May 3, 1995, the regularly scheduled annual Emergency Drill was conducted at the St. Lucie Plant (PSL) including a full scale siren activation and sounding. Upon completion of the drill, Florida Power and Light (FPL) received numerous notifications from the public that they had not heard the sirens. FPL has concluded an investigation and believes that the cause of the siren system failure may be of interest to the NRC.

On May 4, 1995, FPL performed its biweekly siren patrol to test each siren's operability. There are 85 pole top Whelen WPS 3000 sirens installed in the PSL Emergency Planning Zone. The patrol found 64 out of 85 sirens operable. This equates to a 75.29% instantaneous availability and a twelve month running average availability of 96.48%. Both of these percentages are above the criteria for reportability, therefore the PSL siren system was not determined to be in a degraded condition and a one hour NRC notification was not required. However, Mr. R. D. Mothena of FPL's Emergency Preparedness section notified Mr. Ken Barr of the NRC in Region II regarding the problem with the sirens on May 4, 1995.

New battery chargers, Whelen RS-485, had been supplied by Whelen Engineering and installed as an upgrade to the old style Whelen battery chargers which are no longer in production. FPL investigations have revealed a common mode failure regarding the newly installed Whelen RS-485 battery chargers. The chargers were "locking up" at low voltage output which allowed the siren batteries to discharge over a seven to fourteen day period. Static noise was falsely satisfying the digital to analog logic of the battery charger, thus turning the charger off. Whelen Engineering believes that the noise is coming in through the communications port linking two of the battery charger components. Whelen has provided a modification to the battery charger firmware to activate the communication port on demand versus continuously.

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Re: St. Lucie Units 1 and 2
Docket Nos. 50-335 and 50-389
Whelen WPS 3000 Sirens

FPL has taken the following initiatives regarding the FPL Siren System at St. Lucie and Turkey Point plants:

1. The FPL Siren System was checked and deemed fully operational on May 5, 1995.
2. All 151 Whelen RS-485 battery chargers owned by FPL have been accounted for and are currently not installed in the FPL Siren System.
3. The new Whelen RS-485 battery chargers will not be installed in the FPL Siren System until the failure modes are fully understood, corrected and field tested.

Very truly yours,



D. A. Sager
Vice President
St. Lucie Plant

DAS/JWH

cc: Stewart D. Ebnetter, Regional Administrator, USNRC Region II
Senior Resident Inspector, USNRC, St. Lucie Plant