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 FACIL: 50-389 St. Lucie Plant, Unit 2, Florida Power & Light Co.
 AUTH. NAME: STALL, J.A. AUTHOR AFFILIATION: Florida Power & Light Co.
 RECIP. NAME: RECIPIENT AFFILIATION: Document Control Branch (Document Control Desk)

SUBJECT: Noncompliance notification: on 960918, adult female West Indian manatee observed in intake canal. Newly installed turtle barrier net was instrumental in retaining manatee in safe location & in good condition. Manatee released.

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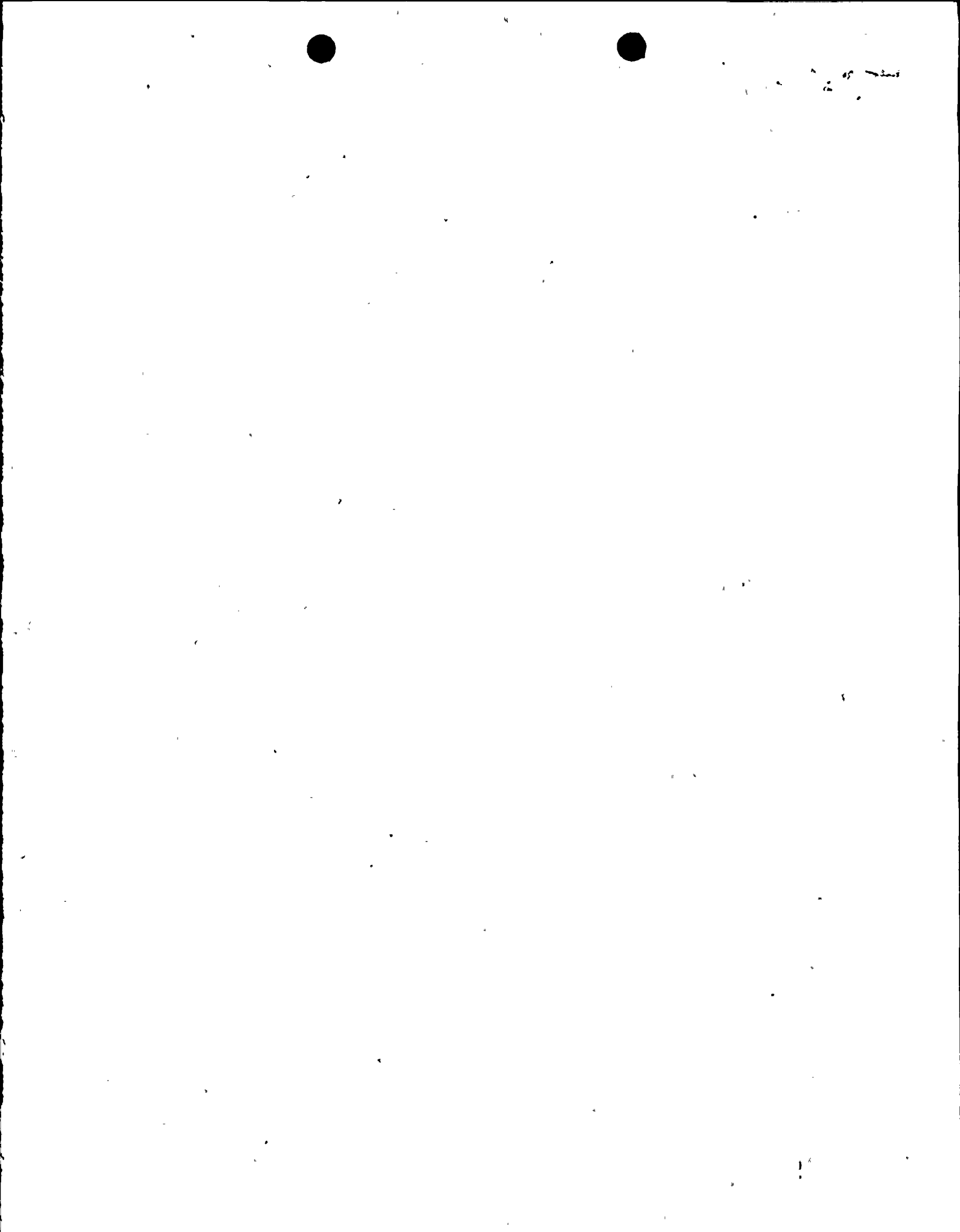
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October 10, 1996

L-96-261
10CFR50.36(b)

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

Re: St. Lucie Unit 2
Docket No. 50-389
Environmental Protection Plan Report
Date of Event: September 18, 1996
Unusual or Important Environmental Event

The attached Report is being submitted pursuant to the requirements of Section 4.1 of the St. Lucie Unit 2 Environmental Protection Plan to provide a description of a reportable manatee entrapment in the intake canal at the St. Lucie Plant.

Very truly yours,

J. A. Stall
Vice President
St. Lucie Plant

JAS/GRM

150072

Attachment

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

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MANATEE CAPTURE IN THE ST. LUCIE PLANT INTAKE CANAL

EVENT DESCRIPTION

An adult female West Indian manatee, weighing approximately 1000 pounds, was observed in the St. Lucie Plant intake canal at approximately 2:30 PM on September 18, 1996. The manatee was spotted by a biologist monitoring the canal in accordance with the plant sea turtle protection program. It is likely that the manatee was observed immediately following its entry into the canal. The newly installed turtle barrier net was instrumental in retaining the manatee in a safe location and in good condition prior to its capture and release to the nearby Indian River Lagoon just after noon the following day, September 19, 1996.

The 72-hour notification to the NRC, required by the Environmental Protection Plan Section 4.1, was completed September 18, 1996. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), Division of Protected Species and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service were notified of the event on September 18 and 19, respectively. The FDEP, as well as equipment and personnel from Sea World, assisted in the manatee's capture and release.

Entry of a manatee in the plant's intake canal is rare but plausible, given the design of the ocean intake velocity cap. To date, no manatees have been seriously injured during the process of their entry, capture, or release from the plant intake canal.