

MAR 18 1977

Docket No. 50-275  
and 50-323

The Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr.  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Mathias:

I am pleased to respond to your note of February 10, 1977, forwarding a note from your constituent Ms. Marian Barbour. Ms. Barbour enclosed the January 27 Jack Anderson column concerning the Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant and expressed an opinion that the plant should not be allowed to operate.

The Hosgri fault was discovered in 1971 close to the plant and has been the subject of investigation by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), the U. S. Geological Survey and the Commission since 1973 when PG&E applied for an operating license.

Operation of the plant is being held up, at considerable cost, because the earthquake safety questions are not yet resolved. The first unit at this site was essentially completed early last year. It appears that operation will have been held up about 1 1/2 years before a decision on the operating license can be made.

The plant is located 3 1/2 miles from the Hosgri fault on a foundation of competent rock. What we are dealing with here is a question of redesign and modification to withstand more severe ground shaking than was considered in the original design. However, there is no reason to be concerned about ground rupture at the plant site due to an earthquake. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff has called for an analysis to determine what changes may be necessary so that the plant can withstand a magnitude 7.5 earthquake on the Hosgri fault recommended by the United States Geological Survey. This is a very severe earthquake design basis.

The plant's owner, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, is performing this engineering analysis. Then the matter must be reviewed in turn by the NRC staff and by the independent Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards. In the process, it will have been scrutinized by many competent geologists, seismologists and structural engineers, including independent consultants of national stature. Finally, the matter will be considered by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board at a public hearing.

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The Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. - 2 -

It is not known, at this time, what the final decision will be.

As you requested, this response is made to you in duplicate and the original correspondence is returned. I trust you will find this information responsive to your request.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Lee V. Gossick

Lee V. Gossick  
Executive Director  
for Operations

Enclosure:  
Letter from Ms. Marian Barbour

DISTRIBUTION

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D. Allison

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J. Yore, ASLB

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J. Miller

H. Denton

R. Heineman

V. Stello

bcc: Pacific Gas and Electric  
Company

\* SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES  
REWRITTEN PER E. CASE.

OELD

3/ /77

NRR

EGCase

3/ /77

NRR

BCRusche

3/ /77

| OFFICE  | LWR-#1                 | LWR-#1 | LWR/DPM    | DPM    | EDO       | OCA    |
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The Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. - 2 -

It is not known, at this time, what the final decision will be. However, the NRC's regulations require that the plant be designed to withstand the most severe earthquake that could be expected to occur at the site. This must be demonstrated before operation of the plant is permitted.

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M. Groff

E. Hughes

L. Dreher

J. Stolz

D. Allison

E. Hylton

J. Yore, ASLB

IE (3)

SECY Mail Facility (3)

J. Miller

H. Denton

R. Heineman

V. Stello

bcc: Pacific Gas and Electric  
Company

\* SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES  
REWRITTEN PER OELD

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*Handwritten:* NRR EGC Case  
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1. The first part of the document discusses the importance of maintaining accurate records of all transactions. It emphasizes that this is essential for ensuring the integrity of the financial statements and for providing a clear audit trail. The text also mentions that proper record-keeping is necessary for compliance with various regulatory requirements.

2. The second part of the document focuses on the role of internal controls in preventing fraud and errors. It describes how a well-designed system of internal controls can help to identify and prevent potential risks before they become a problem. The text also discusses the importance of regular monitoring and evaluation of these controls to ensure they remain effective over time.

3. The third part of the document addresses the issue of data security and privacy. It highlights the need for organizations to implement robust security measures to protect sensitive information from unauthorized access, disclosure, or destruction. The text also discusses the importance of having a clear policy regarding data privacy and how to ensure that all employees are aware of and follow this policy. Finally, the document concludes by summarizing the key points and reiterating the importance of these practices for the overall success and sustainability of the organization.

The Honorable Charles McC. Mathias, Jr. - 2 -

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- Attorney, ELD
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- E. Hylton
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- IE (3)
- SECY Mail Facility (3)
- J. Miller
- H. Denton
- R. Heineman
- V. Stello

bcc: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

*See Schwicker letter for last RP change*

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V. Stello

bcc: Pacific Gas and Electric  
Company

\* SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR PREVIOUS CONCURRENCES  
REWRITTEN PER E. CASE

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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

MAR 10 1977

MEMORANDUM FOR: Lee V. Gossick, Executive Director for Operations

SUBJECT: LATE RESPONSE TO CONGRESSIONAL MAIL - DIABLO CANYON

The enclosed response to congressional mail is late because the response was not drafted until 2 1/2 weeks after the incoming letter was received by my branch. This was so because I was busy preparing responses to inquiries from Representatives Moss and Udall about Diablo Canyon and developing plans to expedite the licensing process for this plant if possible.

Rec'd by: [unclear]  
Date: 3/14/77  
File: 445

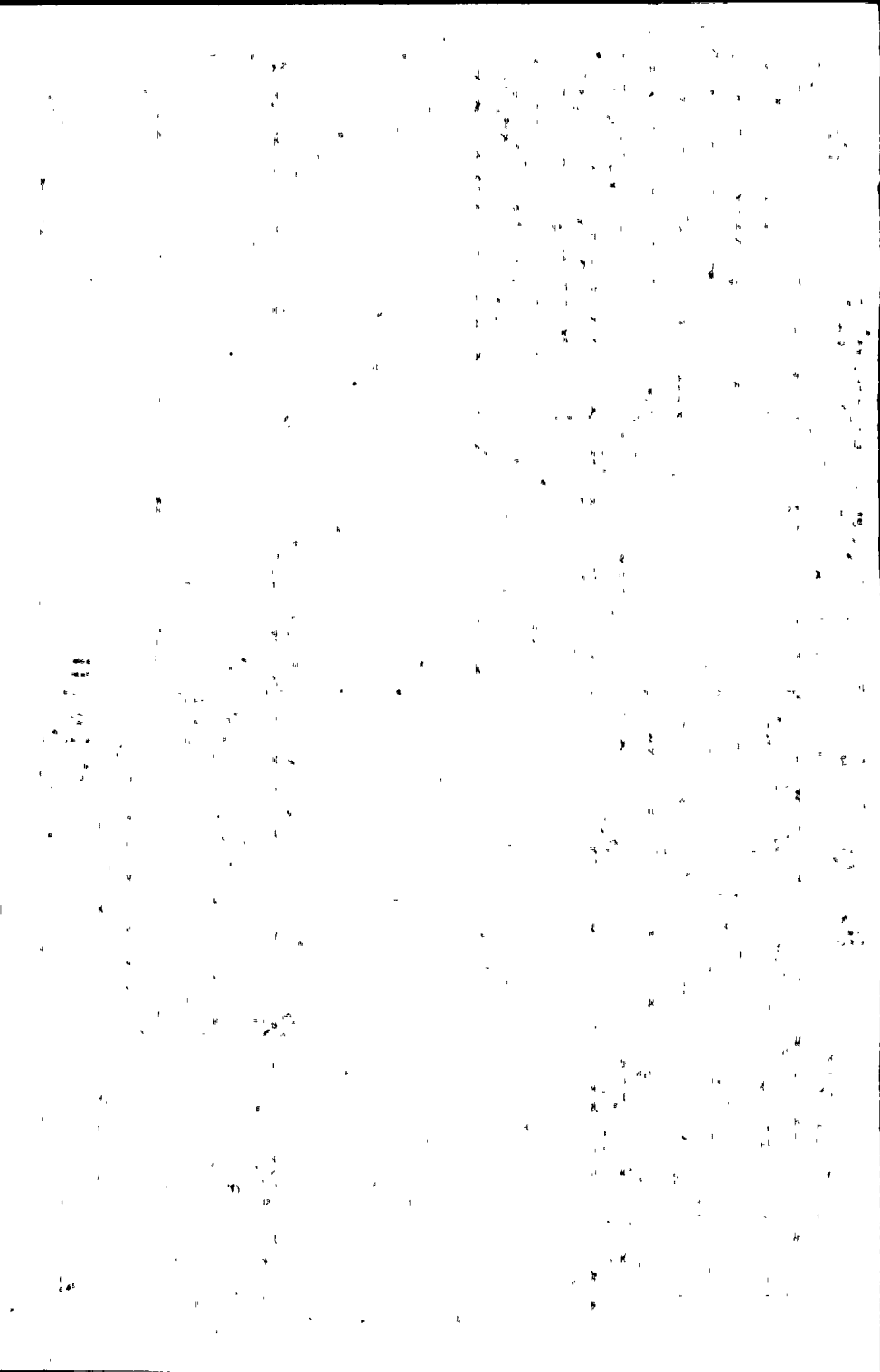
*D. P. Allison*

D. P. Allison, Project Manager  
Light Water Reactors Branch No. 1  
Division of Project Management

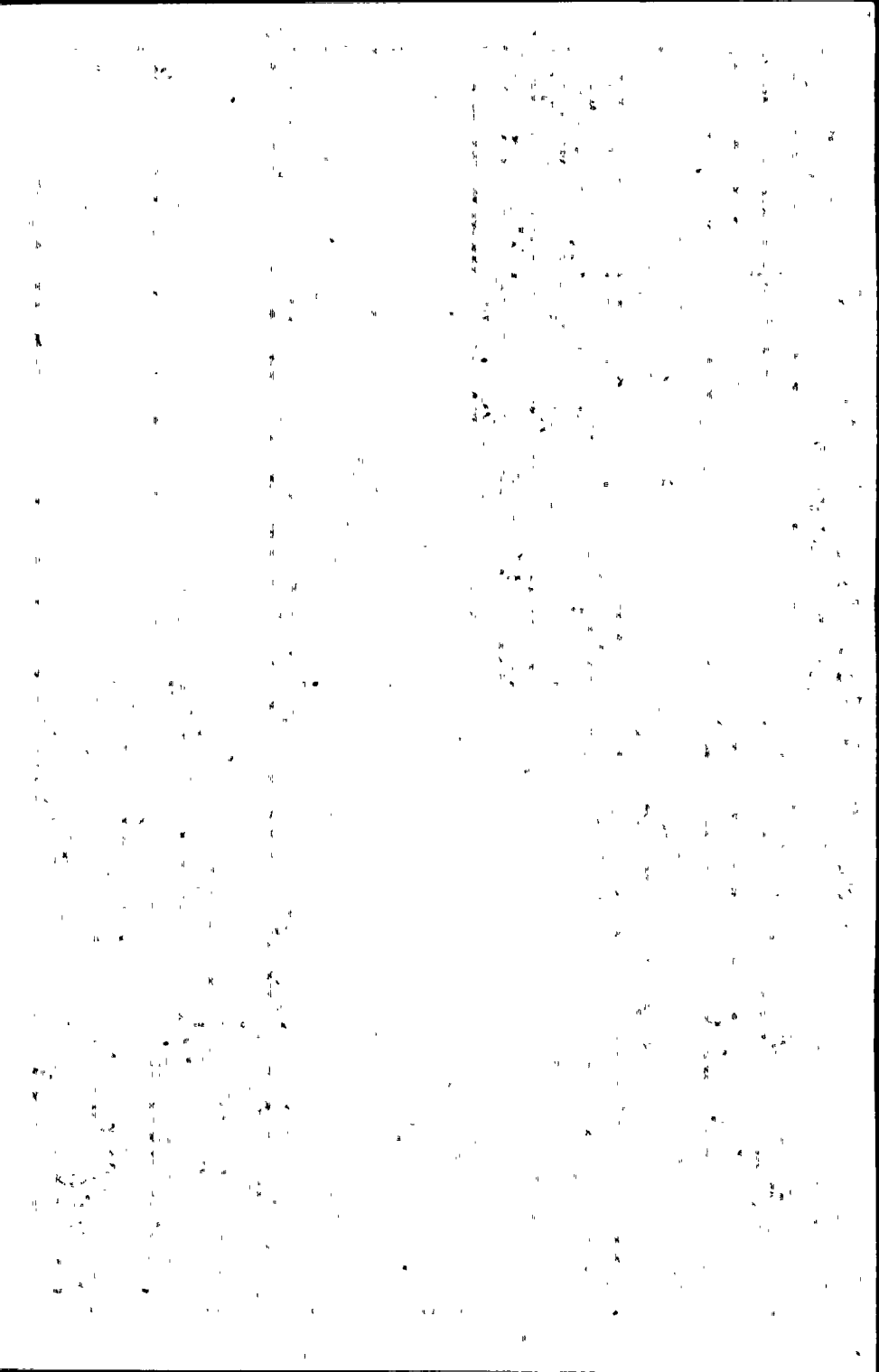
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| FROM:<br>Sen. Charles McC. Mathias |  | ACTION CONTROL | DATES   | CONTROL NO.<br>01497                           |  |
|                                    |  | COMPL DEADLINE | 2/2/77  | DATE OF DOCUMENT<br>2/10/77                    |  |
|                                    |  | ACKNOWLEDGMENT |   | PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:                      |  |
|                                    |  | INTERIM REPLY  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN              |  |
|                                    |  | FINAL REPLY    |   | <input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR    |  |
|                                    |  | FILE LOCATION  | 1. 1. 1   | OTHER: <u>Encl</u>                             |  |
| TO:<br>SAC                         |  |                | DESCRIPTION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LETTER <input type="checkbox"/> MEMO <input type="checkbox"/> REPORT <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |  |  |
| SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS    |  |                | encl ltr to Marlon Barber opposing granting an operating license for Eladio Cayen   |  |  |
| CLASSIFIED DATA                    |  |                | Returns enclosure w/reply   |  |  |
| DOCUMENT/COPY NO.                  |  |                | CLASSIFICATION  |  |  |
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| POSTAL REGISTRY NO.                |  |                | <input type="checkbox"/> NSI <input type="checkbox"/> RD <input type="checkbox"/> FRD   |  |  |
| ASSIGNED TO:                       |  | DATE           | INFORMATION ROUTING   | LEGAL REVIEW                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> FINAL <input type="checkbox"/> COPY |
| Dunbar                             |  | 2/15/77        | Coca  | ASSIGNED TO:                                   | DATE   |
|                                    |  |                | Docket Files (53-214)   | NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY:                    |  |
|                                    |  |                | 53-3  | <input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR |  |
|                                    |  |                | RM  | EXT. _____                                     |  |
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| JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED:     |  |                | <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO  |  |  |



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| FROM:<br><b>Sen. Charles McC. Mathias</b>   |                | ACTION CONTROL  |   | DATES         |   | CONTROL NO.<br><b>01497</b>  |  |
|   |                | COMPL DEADLINE  |   | <b>2/2/77</b> |   | DATE OF DOCUMENT<br><b>2/10/77</b>   |  |
|   |                | ACKNOWLEDGMENT  |   |               |   | PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:<br><input type="checkbox"/> CHAIRMAN<br><input type="checkbox"/> EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR<br>OTHER: <u>Mathias</u> |  |
|   |                | INTERIM REPLY   |   |               |   |  |  |
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| Encl ltr to Marian Harboer opposing granting an operating license for Diablo Canyon   |                | Returns enclosure w/reply<br><br>LPRJ   |   |               |   |  |  |
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| <b>MS028</b>  | <b>2/15/77</b> | <b>Case</b><br><b>Recheck Files (20-275)</b><br><b>10-12</b><br><b>MS</b>             | ASSIGNED TO:  | DATE          | NO LEGAL OBJECTIONS NOTIFY:<br><input type="checkbox"/> EDO ADMIN & CORRES BR<br>EXT. _____ |  |  |
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|   |                |   | JCAE NOTIFICATION RECOMMENDED: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO |               |   |  |  |





United States Senate

February 10, 1977

RE: Ms. Marian Bubour

Respectfully referred to:

Congressional Liaison  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D. C. 20555

Please Reply To:  
358 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D. C. 20510

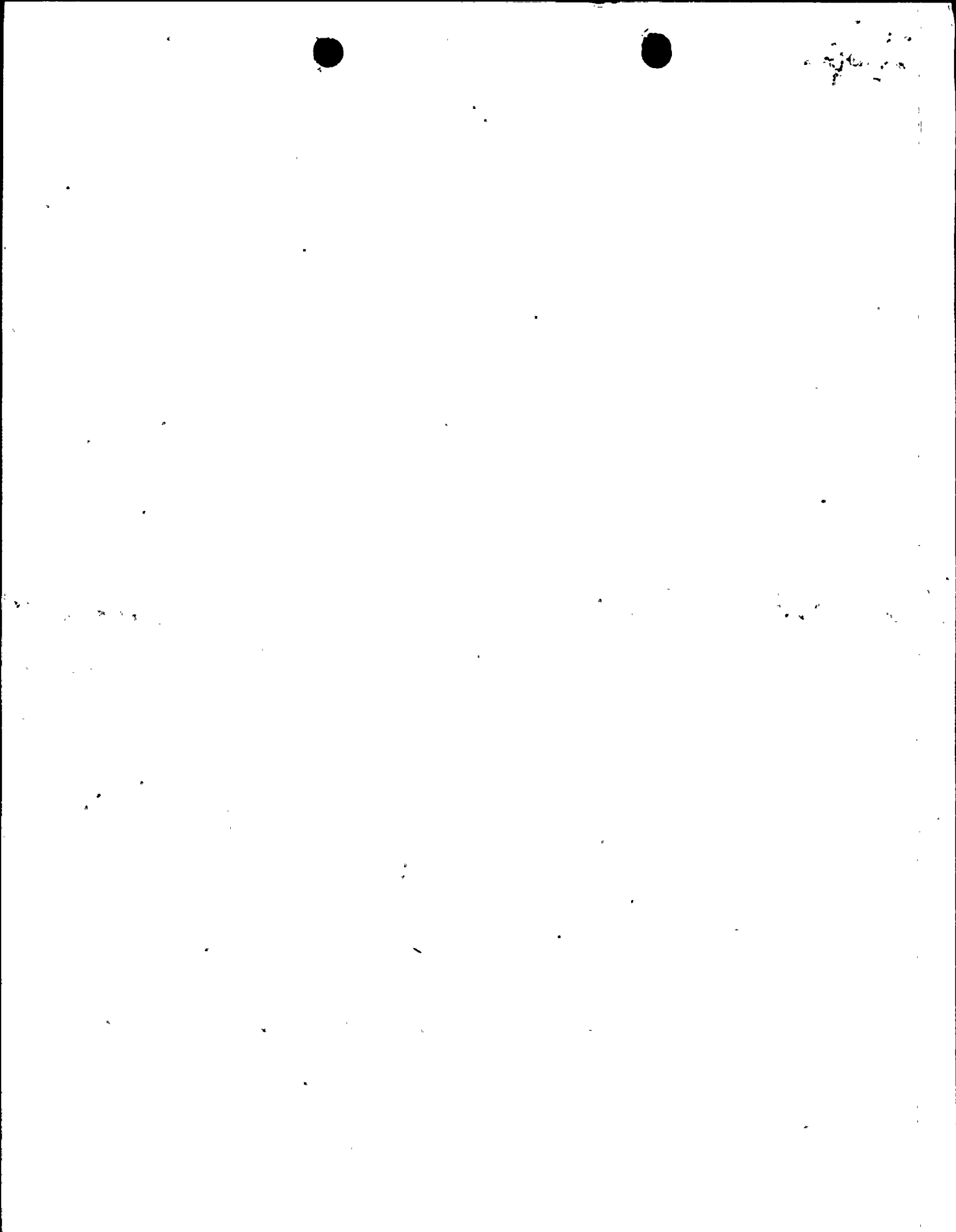
Because of the desire of this office to be responsive to all inquiries and communications, your consideration of the attached is requested. Your findings and views, in duplicate form, along with return of the enclosure, will be appreciated by

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED 2/15/77  
INDEXED 1/1/77

Charles C. Mathias, Jr.  
U.S.S.

Form #2

CM:rc



# A-Plant Built Near Atomic Plant

By JACK ANDERSON and LES WHITTEN

WASHINGTON — It started in the quiet darkness before dawn. Two small leaks, seemingly insignificant, trickled down the canyon wall near the north end of the great earth-filled Teton Dam.

But three minutes before noon on the fearful Sunday, June 5,

1976, the 30-story dam split open, and a massive wall of water roared over the peaceful Idaho countryside. Miraculously, only 14 people died from the flood's ravages. But over a billion dollars worth of Idaho real estate was washed away. Thousands were left homeless.

Subsequent investigations indicated that the dam should not have been built at all. For the Bureau of Reclamation knew, long before a billion gallons of water backed up behind the dam, that it was a risky project. The geology was tricky, the engineering dubious. But unfortunately, Washington was more sensitive to the lobbying for the dam than to the scientific warnings against it. And so the government built a monster called Teton.

Now a worse disaster may be in the making on the California coast. A nuclear power plant is nearing completion near Diablo Canyon, just three miles from an earthquake line called Hosgri Fault.

The Hosgri Fault hadn't been discovered when the government issued the construction permit in 1968. But several eminent geologists warned that more care should be taken to locate possible faults in that earthquake-prone area.

In 1971, Shell Oil geologists announced the discovery of the Hosgri Fault. They found it by using a method, ironically, that the nuclear facility's critics had unsuccessfully urged the government to try.

YET DESPITE the earthquake danger, the government went ahead with the Diablo Canyon plant. It doesn't take a geologist to figure out that an earthquake could rupture the nuclear power plant. This could cause a radiation

spill, with catastrophic consequences.

The construction of the plant could have been stopped in 1971, of course, before the full \$1.2 billion it cost to build it was spent. Now it is too late to recover the enormous construction cost; the plant will soon be ready to open. However, it still requires an operating license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which is supposed to protect the public safety.

The NRC is toughening its standards to make the Diablo Canyon plant more earthquake-resistant. But no human engineering could guarantee the safety of a plant on the edge of an earthquake fault.

The NRC's project manager for the plant, Dennis Allison, told us that the commission's proposed safety regulations give some comfort "but not much." He acknowledged that the site "turned out to be not such a great place."

Yet so much money and effort has been invested in the plant, and so many powerful politicians have backed it, that there is tremendous pressure to open it. Allison said the operating license "probably" would be granted.

It was also the site, according to congressional findings, that doomed the Teton Dam. But the politicians who promoted the dam and the bureaucrats who planned it have not been held accountable for the billion-dollar disaster. The Bureau of Reclamation, whose mismanagement helped to produce the catastrophe, has been left unscathed.

Congress, of course, conducted its usual investigations, but these didn't perturb Reclamation Commissioner Gil Stamm. He told some bureaucrats, as we reported last year, that he "wasn't losing any

sleep at night" over the congressional inquiries.

NOW WE have discovered additional evidence of his apparent nonchalance over the dam disaster. At obscure House hearings, Stamm pooch-pooched the casualty count, which had then reached only 11. The total number of deaths is 11, three of which are gunshot wounds, two were suicides, one is a couple of days after the loss of the dam, the other two weeks after the loss. He reported blandly to the Water and Power subcommittee.

There have been a number of heart attacks. I think the drownings were a total of five, two of whom were a couple of 76 and 78 years of age who were warned by relatives in ample time but refused to leave their home. Some time later, when they saw the water rising, they did choose to leave, but it was too late. They were drowned.

It is true that the warnings reached most Idaho residents in time for them to escape the flood. For this, the dam builders deserve no credit; thousands might have been drowned. Stamm assured us that he and his agency are "extremely sensitive" to the Teton Dam disaster. But if sterner measures had been taken against the responsible bureaucrats, the NRC might be a little less willing to issue an operating permit to a nuclear plant on the rim of an earthquake fault.

**QUOTE — UNQUOTE**

"I like to see the ball in the air. That way I know where it is."

— Oregon State football coach Craig Fertig

Jan 27-1977

World



January-citizen! Got a minute? I'm 'ing to keep in touch!"

Dear Sir:  
Please stop this plant from going into operation! It's suicidal maybe a foundation would be willing to reimburse the investors.  
Yours very truly,  
Marian Beibour

1-30-77

