

Per Cent

September 19, 1978

Elizabeth S. Bowers, Esq., Chairman
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

Mr. Glenn O. Bright
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
Panel
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555


Dr. William E. Martin
Senior Ecologist
Battelle Memorial Institute
Columbus, Ohio 43201

In the Matter of
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
(Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, Units Nos. 1 and 2)
Docket Nos. 50-275 O.L. and 50-323 O.L.

Dear Members of the Board:

The results of analyses performed for the NRC Staff by a consultant indicate that the impact force on fuel assembly spacer grids, caused by asymmetric loads during blowdown following a loss-of-coolant accident, may be more sensitive to core plate motion than it was originally believed to be. A copy of the consultant's memorandum on this subject dated November 4, 1977, is enclosed. As noted, the information is preliminary. Therefore, the Staff's conclusion that pressurized water reactor fuel assembly designs are acceptable has not been altered. However, a question has been raised about the margin to deformation of the fuel assembly grids.

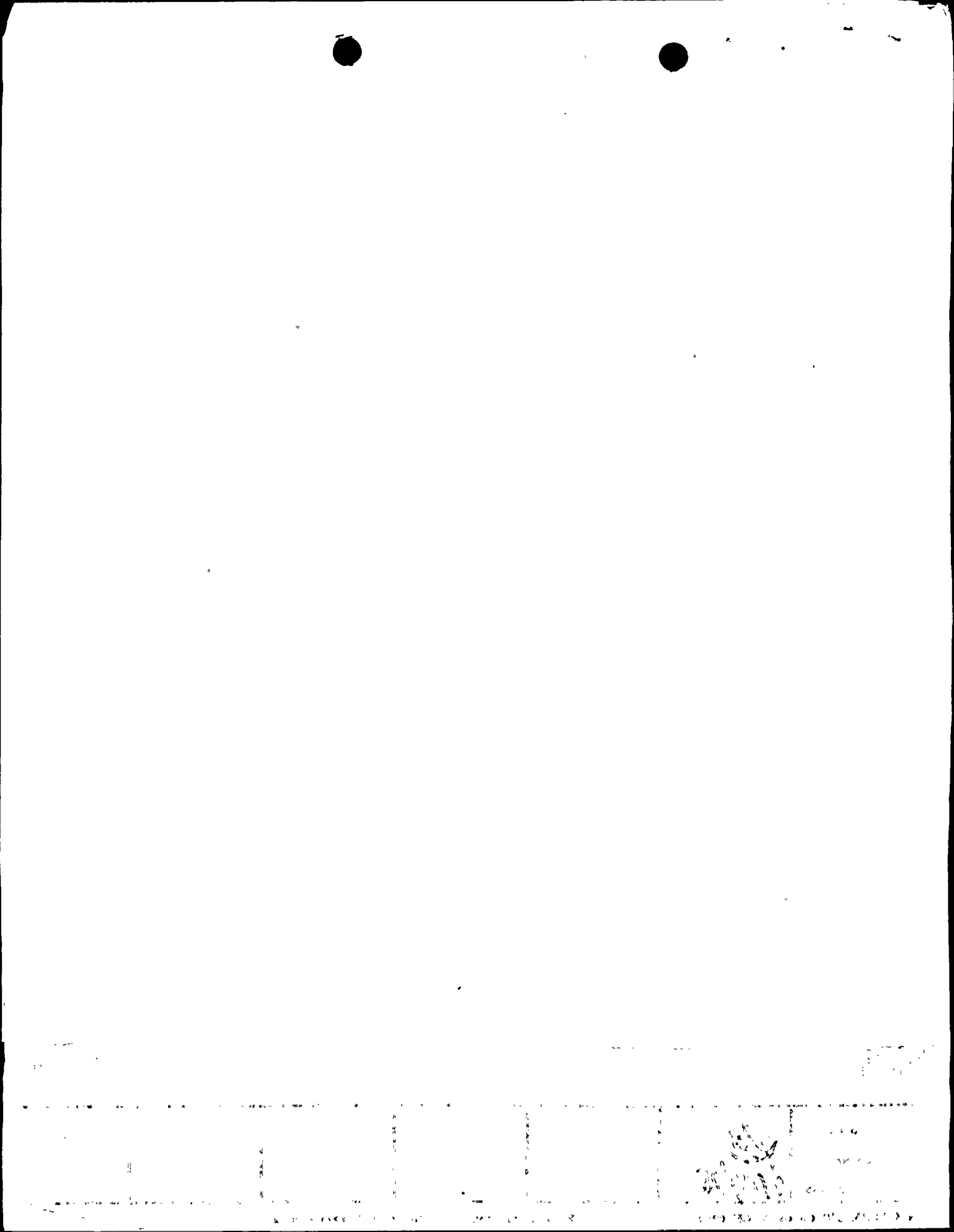
The NRC Staff and its consultant are continuing their evaluation of fuel assembly mechanical response.

Sincerely


Richard J. Goddard
Counsel for NRC Staff

Enclosure
cc (see page 2)

OFFICE >						
SURNAME >	<i>RJG</i>					
DATE >	<i>9/18/78</i>					



cc (w/ encl.):

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