

50-275

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 LWR 1 File E. Hylton  
 H. Denton J. Yore, ASLB  
 E. Case IE (3)  
 R. Boyd SECY Mail Facility  
 Attorney, ELD (79-0535)  
 CA (3) Jeanne Cook  
 G. Ertter D. Bunch  
 (05706) R. DeYoung  
 R. Mattson

MAY 08 1979

The Honorable Robert J. Lagomarsino  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lagomarsino:

I am pleased to respond to your letter of March 20, 1979 to Mr. Carlton Kammerer, Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission. You enclosed a letter from your constituent, Ed Maschke and requested information about his concerns. Specifically, your constituent was concerned about the proximity of the Hosgri Fault to the Diablo Canyon site, the ability of the Diablo Canyon plants to withstand a severe earthquake, and the matters of nuclear waste disposal and the hazards of low level radiation. In addition, a concern was raised as to the quality of construction at various areas of the plant.

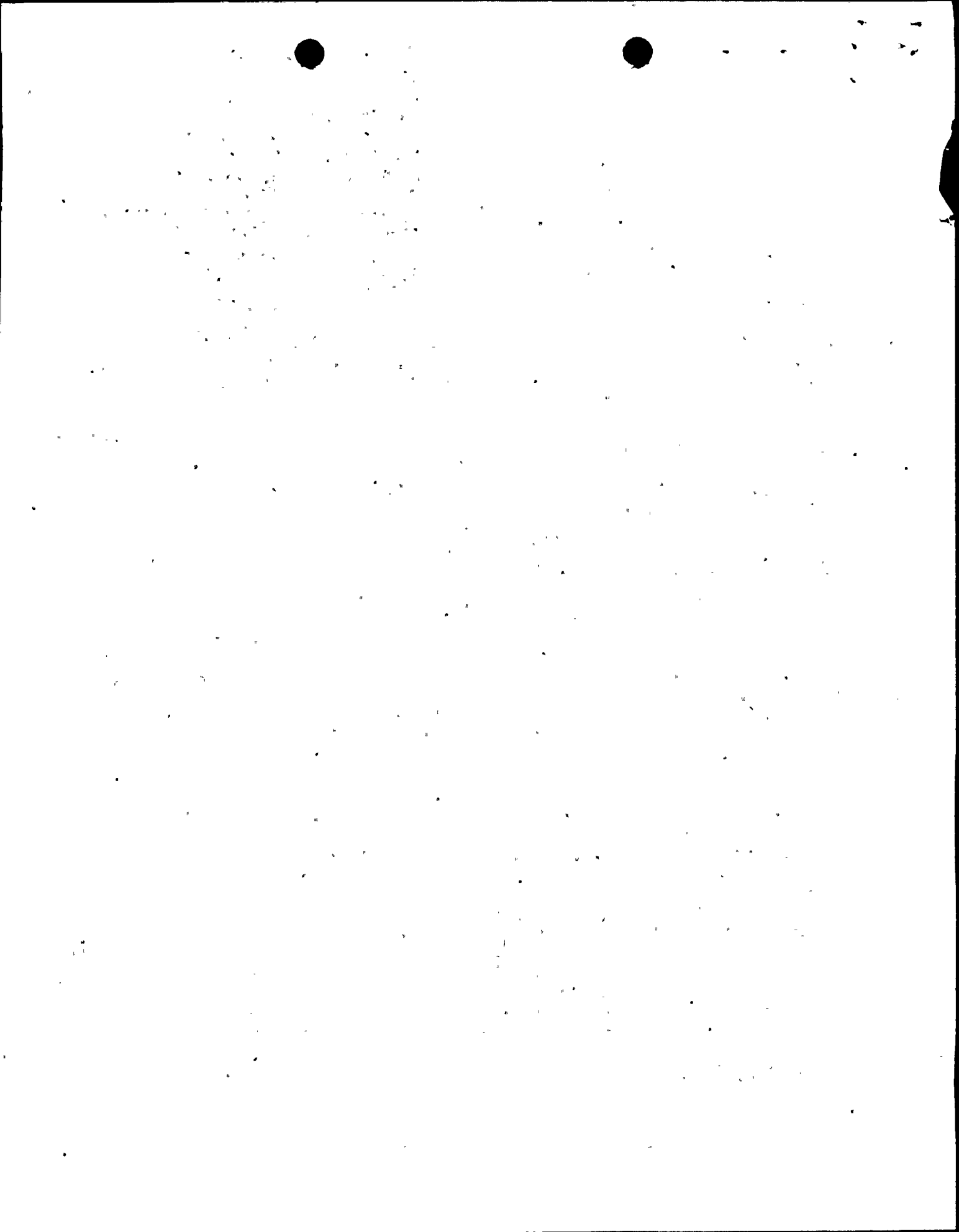
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In regard to the quality of construction at the Diablo site, stringent construction controls, among other things, are required by the utility's Quality Assurance Program which has been reviewed and found to satisfy the Commission's requirements described in Appendix B to Part 50 of Title 10 of the Federal Code of Regulations. Each utility is responsible for assuring that its nuclear power plants are built and operated safely in accordance with the above cited regulation. The NRC's Office of Inspection

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and Enforcement conducts periodic scheduled and unannounced field inspections of the utility's implementation of its Quality Assurance Program. These field inspections during the construction phase are extensive and cover: (1) a review of the applicant's Quality Assurance performance, including audits of the applicant's Quality Assurance records and documentation; (2) a witnessing of the construction practices and an inspection of the facility at various stages of construction; and (3) a review of the qualifications and training of the construction personnel as well as those of the quality assurance and quality control personnel. The review of the qualifications and training of the quality assurance and quality control personnel is conducted for all personnel at the site, including the specialized subcontractors, and at the manufacturing facilities of the vendors and suppliers. In the event of alleged deficiencies, the Office of Inspection and Enforcement would conduct a thorough investigation of the allegations and require the correction of any deficiencies that were found to exist.

With regard to nuclear waste disposal, the Commission has been quite concerned with this matter. While the Department of Energy has primary responsibility for developing and constructing waste disposal facilities, the NRC has the responsibility to license such facilities and to insure that nuclear waste storage and disposal will not endanger the health and safety of the public. The NRC has been working to develop a regulatory framework for the licensing of high-level waste repositories and has published for comment in the Federal Register proposed procedures for such licensing. (43 FR 53869, November 17, 1978). The NRC has established an office with divisional status, the Division of Waste Management, which deals exclusively with nuclear waste issues. In addition, the NRC participated in the activities of the Interagency Review Group on Nuclear Waste Management which was established by President Carter in March of 1978 and charged with developing a government-wide strategy for dealing with the waste management problem. The draft report of this, incorporating a broad range of inputs and views from many scientific groups and members of the public, was issued for public comment in October 1978. It was issued in final form, incorporating many of the three-thousand comments received, in March of 1979. The report is to be forwarded to the President for action. It is expected that the recommendations in this report will shape the future handling of the nuclear waste disposal issue. These activities are indicative of the attention being given to the nuclear waste disposal problem at the NRC and at other government agencies.

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The Honorable Robert J. Lagomarsino - 3 -

In the matter of low level radiation hazards, the Commission has always subscribed to the principle that radiation exposure of the public should be kept as low as is reasonably achievable. This principle has been a central one in the field of radiation protection for many years. Operating licenses of nuclear power plants include provisions to limit and control radioactive effluents from the plants. The term "as low as is reasonably achievable" requires taking into account the state of technology, the economics of improvements in relation to benefits to the public health and safety, other societal and socioeconomic considerations, and the relationship of these to the use of nuclear energy in the public interest. The Commission has adopted numerical guidelines for design objectives and limiting conditions for operation of nuclear power plants to meet the criterion of "as low as reasonably achievable" for radioactive material in effluents from nuclear power plants. Using these guidelines, the radiation resulting from radioactive release from nuclear power plants during normal plant operation is a small fraction of that received from natural background activity.

I trust that the above information has been responsive to your constituent's concerns.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Lee V. Gossick

Lee V. Gossick  
Executive Director  
for Operations

LWR\*  
DVassallo  
4/4/79

ELD\*  
EKetchen  
4/23/79

SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR CONCURRENCES\*

OFFICE	EDenton/red	DPM	NRR	NRR	EDO	OCA
CURNAME	BBuckley	RBoyd	ECase	HDenton	LGossick	GOL
DATE	4/25/79	4/26/79	4/26/79	4/26/79	4/26/79	5/4/79



MEMORANDUM FOR: Lee V. Gossick, Executive Director for Operations  
FROM: John F. Stolz, Chief, Light Water Reactors Branch  
No. 1, DPM  
SUBJECT: LATE RESPONSE TO "GREEN TICKET" LETTER FROM  
CONGRESSMAN LAGOMARSINO

Our response to Congressman Lagomarsino's letter regarding his constituent's concerns about the Diablo Canyon license has been delayed three weeks beyond the completion deadline.

The review and concurrence with OELD involved about five members of their staff and took nearly three weeks. Part of this concurrence time was due to the several subjects addressed in our response.

John F. Stolz, Chief  
Light Water Reactors Branch No. 1  
Division of Project Management

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Docket Files

NRC PDR

Local PDR

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NRR Reading

LWR 1 File

H. R. Denton

E. G. Case

R. S. Boyd

Attorney, ELD

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The Honorable Robert J. Lagomarsino  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lagomarsino:

I am pleased to respond to your letter of March 20, 1979 to Mr. Carlton Kammerer, Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

You enclosed a letter from your constituent, Ed Maschke and requested information about his concerns. Specifically, your constituent was concerned about the proximity of the Hosgri Fault to the Diablo Canyon site, the ability of the Diablo Canyon plants to withstand a severe earthquake, and the matters of nuclear waste disposal and the hazards of low level radiation. In addition, a concern was raised as to the quality of construction at various areas of the plant.

The Hosgri Fault, which is located 3 1/2 miles from the Diablo plants, was discovered in 1971 and has been the subject of intensive investigation by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company, the U. S. Geological Survey and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. As a result of this investigation, significant modifications have been made at this facility to withstand a magnitude 7.5 earthquake at the Hosgri Fault. This is a very severe design basis earthquake. Moreover, comprehensive public hearings on this matter have been held by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board over about a two month period. These hearings were completed on February 16, 1979. The Board is in the process of preparing its decision regarding the licensing of Diablo Canyon based on the record of these proceedings.

In regard to the quality of construction at the Diablo site, stringent construction controls, among other things, are required by the utility's Quality Assurance Program which has been reviewed and found to satisfy the Commission's requirements described in Appendix B to Part 50 of Title 10 of the Federal Code of Regulations. Each utility is responsible for assuring that its nuclear power plants are built and operated safely in accordance with the above cited regulation. The NRC's Office of Inspection and Enforcement conducts periodic scheduled and unannounced field inspections of the utility's implementation of its Quality Assurance Program. These field inspections during the construction phase are extensive and cover: (1) a review of the applicant's Quality Assurance performance, including audits of the applicant's Quality Assurance records and documentation;

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(2) a witnessing of the construction practices and an inspection of the facility at various stages of construction; and (3) a review of the qualifications and training of the construction personnel as well as those of the quality assurance and quality control personnel. The review of the qualifications and training of the quality assurance and quality control personnel is conducted for all personnel at the site, including the specialized subcontractors, and at the manufacturing facilities of the vendors and suppliers. In the event of alleged deficiencies, the Office of Inspection and Enforcement would conduct a thorough investigation of the allegations and require the correction of any deficiencies that were found to exist.

With respect to nuclear waste disposal, in March of 1977, President Carter established an Interagency Group on Nuclear Waste Management and charged it with developing a strategy for dealing with the waste management problem. The draft report of this group, incorporating a broad range of inputs and views from many governmental, scientific and public groups was issued for public comment in October 1978. When these comments have been received, reviewed and incorporated, as appropriate, the report will be forwarded to the President for further action. The Department of Energy has proposed a budget doubled from that of last year to put specific proposals on waste disposal into operation. Furthermore, the NRC has recently elevated its waste management organization to divisional status to prepare the regulatory framework for assuring that particular storage facilities will not endanger the health and safety of the public.

*See attached note*

In the matter of low level radiation hazards, the Commission has always subscribed to the principle that radiation exposure of the public should be kept as low as is reasonably achievable. This principle has been a central one in the field of radiation protection for many years. Operating licenses of nuclear power plants include provisions to limit and control radioactive effluents from the plants. The term "as low as is reasonably achievable" requires taking into account the state of technology, the economics of improvements in relation to benefits to the public health and safety, other societal and socioeconomic considerations, and the relationship of these to the use of nuclear energy in the public interest. The Commission has adopted numerical guidelines for design objectives and limiting conditions for operation of nuclear power plants to meet the criterion of "as low as reasonably achievable" for radioactive material in effluents from nuclear power plants. Using these guidelines, the radiation resulting from radioactive release from nuclear power plants during normal plant operation is a small fraction of that received from natural background activity.

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THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

The first part of the history of the United States is the period of discovery and settlement. The first European to set foot on the continent was Christopher Columbus in 1492. He was followed by other explorers, including John Cabot and Amerigo Vesputi. The first permanent European settlement was founded by the Pilgrims in 1620 at Plymouth, Massachusetts. The British colonies grew and developed, and in 1776 they declared their independence from Great Britain.

The second part of the history of the United States is the period of the American Revolution and the early years of the new nation. The American Revolution began in 1775 and ended in 1783. The United States won its independence from Great Britain and became a sovereign nation. The first Constitution was adopted in 1787, and the first President, George Washington, was inaugurated in 1789. The early years of the new nation were marked by westward expansion and the growth of the economy.

The third part of the history of the United States is the period of the Civil War and Reconstruction. The Civil War began in 1861 and ended in 1865. It was fought between the Union and the Confederacy over the issue of slavery. The Union won the war, and slavery was abolished. Reconstruction followed, and the Southern states were brought back into the Union. The Reconstruction era was marked by the passage of the Reconstruction Acts and the Reconstruction Amendments to the Constitution.

The fourth part of the history of the United States is the period of the Gilded Age and the Progressive Era. The Gilded Age was a period of rapid economic growth and industrialization, but it was also marked by corruption and social inequality. The Progressive Era was a period of reform and social progress, and it led to the passage of the Progressive Era Amendments to the Constitution.

Year	Event
1492	Discovery of America by Christopher Columbus
1620	First permanent European settlement at Plymouth, Massachusetts
1776	Declaration of Independence from Great Britain
1787	Adoption of the first Constitution
1789	Inauguration of George Washington as the first President
1861-1865	Civil War
1865	Abolition of slavery
1877	End of Reconstruction
1896	Start of the Gilded Age
1913	Start of the Progressive Era

The Honorable Robert J. Lagomarsino - 3 -

I trust that the above information has been responsive to your constituent's concerns.

Sincerely,

LWR  
DBVassallo  
4/4/79

\* See  
note w/  
comments  
ELD  
KETCHEN  
4/23/79

OFFICE	LWR 1	DPM	NRR	NRR	EDO	OCA
SURNAME	EHY [unclear] Buckley 1/17	RBoyd	ECase	HDenton	LGossick	
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 United States House of Representatives  
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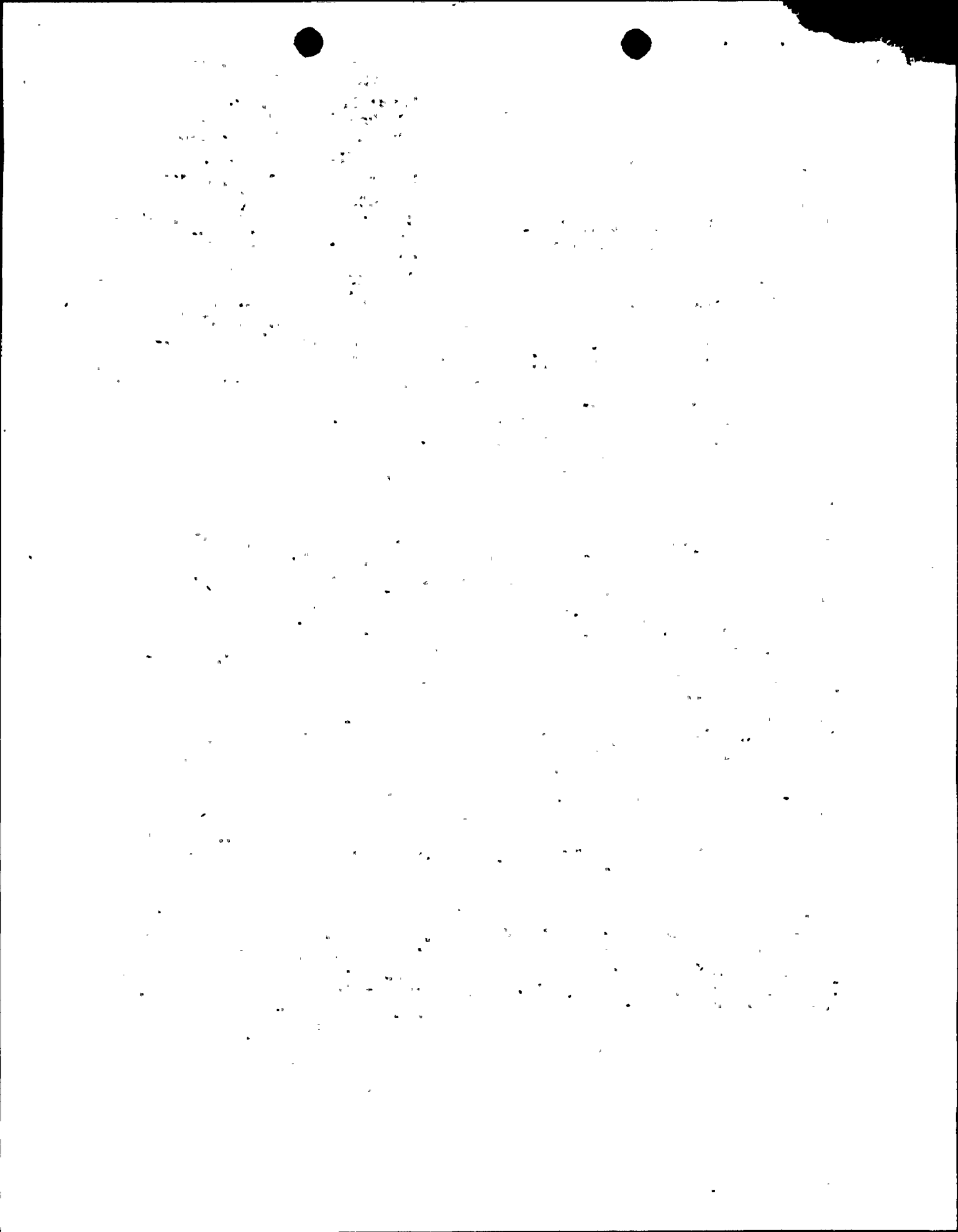
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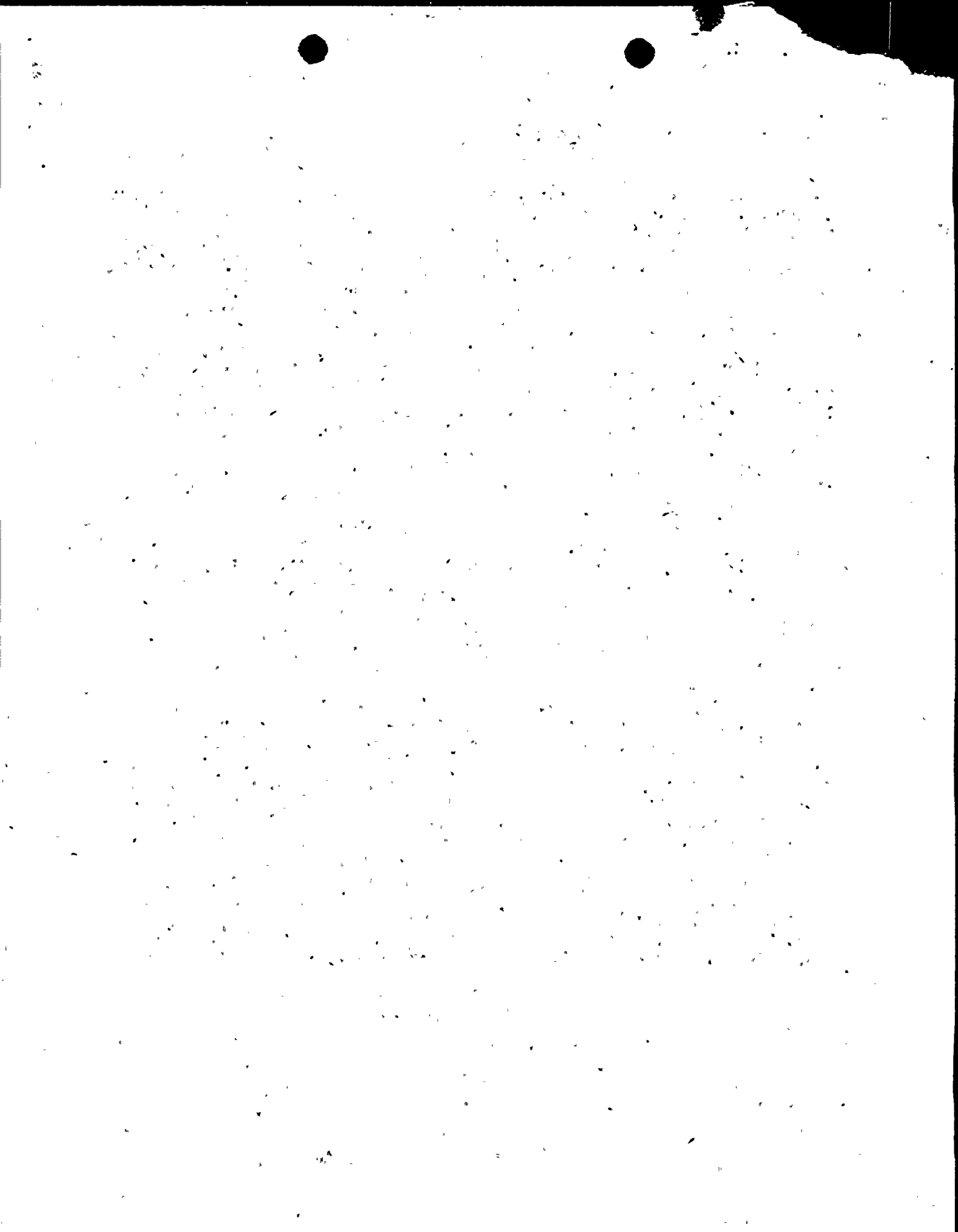




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DVassallo	EKetchen
4/4/79	4/23/79

SEE PREVIOUS YELLOW FOR CONCURRENCES\*

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