

SEP 24 1986

The Honorable Bobbi Fiedler
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Fiedler:

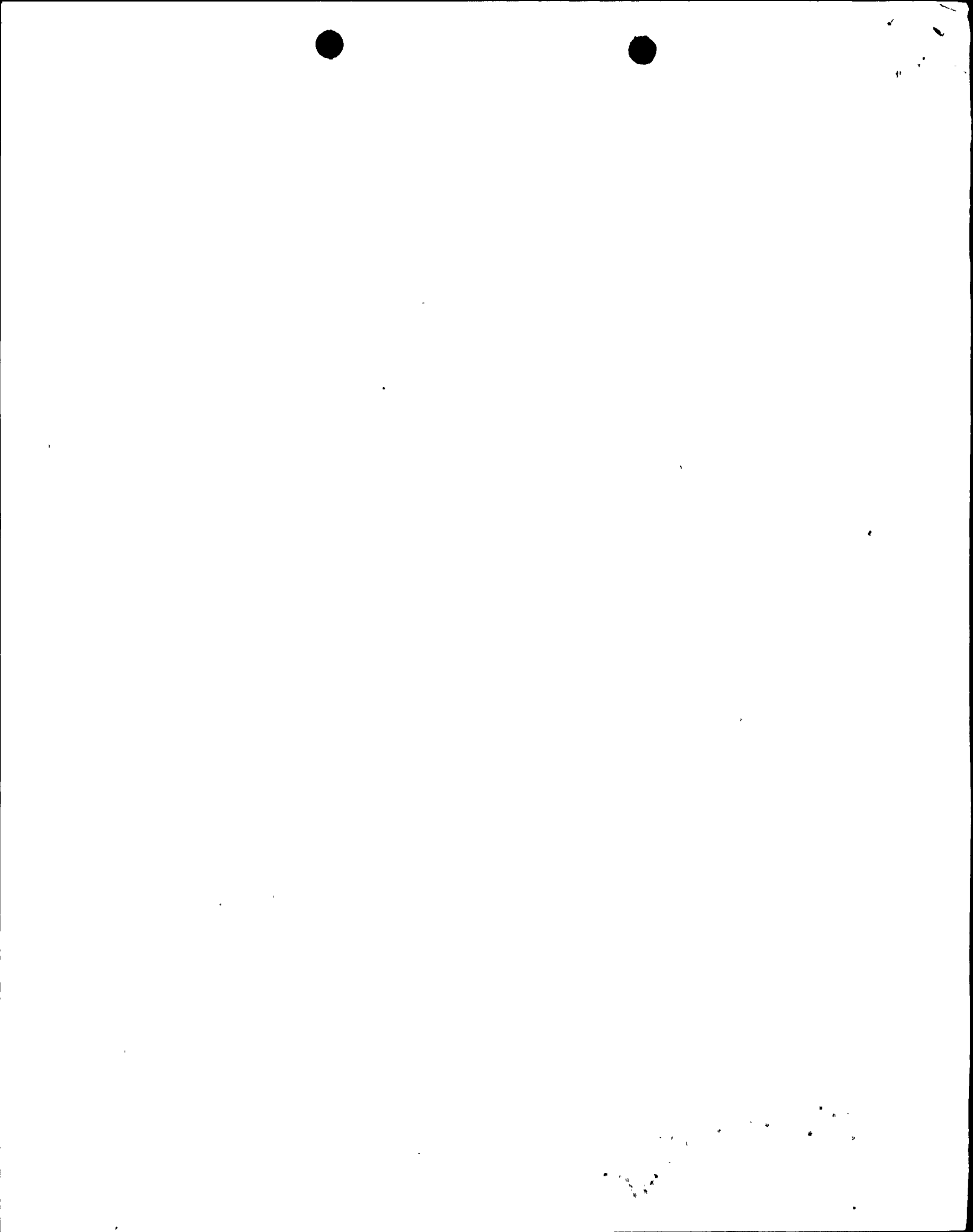
This is in response to your September 4, 1986 letter forwarding a request from Ms. Deanne Hoehman for a safety hearing regarding the proposal by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PGE) to increase the spent-fuel storage capacity at the Diablo Canyon power plant site in California.

A safety hearing on this issue has already been scheduled. In accordance with our standard procedures, when the proposal from PGE was received, a public notice of this proposal was published in the Federal Register on January 13, 1986. In addition to providing a summary of the proposal, the notice also offered any person whose interest may be affected, an opportunity to request a hearing. Requests for a hearing and petitions for leave to intervene were received from San Luis Obispo Mothers for Peace, Consumers Organized for Defense of Environmental Safety, and the Sierra Club. A hearing board was established, and following a pre-hearing conference held on May 13, 1986 in San Luis Obispo, leave to intervene was granted to the above-mentioned three parties, and a hearing scheduled to begin on March 26, 1987, or January 15, 1987, in the event no motions for summary disposition are filed. The location of the hearing has not yet been designated, but traditionally such hearings are held close to the site. In any case, the location of the hearing will be announced by the hearing board.

The hearing will address those contentions of the intervenors found acceptable by the board as discussed in the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's order dated June 27, 1986 (copy enclosed). This hearing will be open to the public, and the issues discussed and decisions reached will be a matter of public record. A public document room has been established at the California Polytechnic State University Library, Documents and Maps Department, San Luis Obispo, California 93407. All documents pertaining to this issue, including the staff's Safety Evaluation Report (copy enclosed), are available there for public inspection.

By way of clarification, nuclear reactors are operated with fuel contained in rods that are placed in the core of the reactor. As the reactor is operated, the fuel is gradually consumed and radioactive byproducts accumulate in the fuel rods. Eventually, the rods must be removed from the reactor and replaced with fresh fuel. The exhausted fuel rods, known as "spent" fuel rods, are then placed in pools of water for storage at the plant site, pending removal to a permanent waste disposal facility.

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The Honorable Bobbi Fiedler

- 2 -

Ms. Hoehman mentions the Chernobyl accident as resulting from spent fuel stored in pools of water with no containment. At Chernobyl, it was active fuel in the reactor that underwent an accident, and not spent fuel in the spent fuel pool. Unlike reactors that have mechanical devices enabling the fuel to be manipulated to bring about a nuclear reaction and produce power, spent fuel pools have no such mechanisms. Instead, spent fuel pools have deliberate passive design features to ensure that a nuclear reaction does not occur.

Sincerely,

(Signed) T.A. Rehm
Victor Stello, Jr.
Executive Director
for Operations

Enclosures:

- 1. ASLB Order
- 2. Safety Evaluation Report
- 3. Ltr dtd 8/28/86 fm Ms. Deanne Hoehman

DISTRIBUTION w/o encls.

Docket File

NRC PDR w/incoming
 Local PDR w/incoming
 PAD-3 R/F
 EDO R/F
 EDO #2114
 VStello
 RVollmer/HDenton
 JDavis
 JMartin
 GCunningham
 SECY 86-0962
 OCA
 DMossburg (#2114)
 HSchierling
 CVogan
 PBaker (2)

W. W. Loyal
OGC
LVCHANDLER
9/20/86

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 CVogan
 9/1/86

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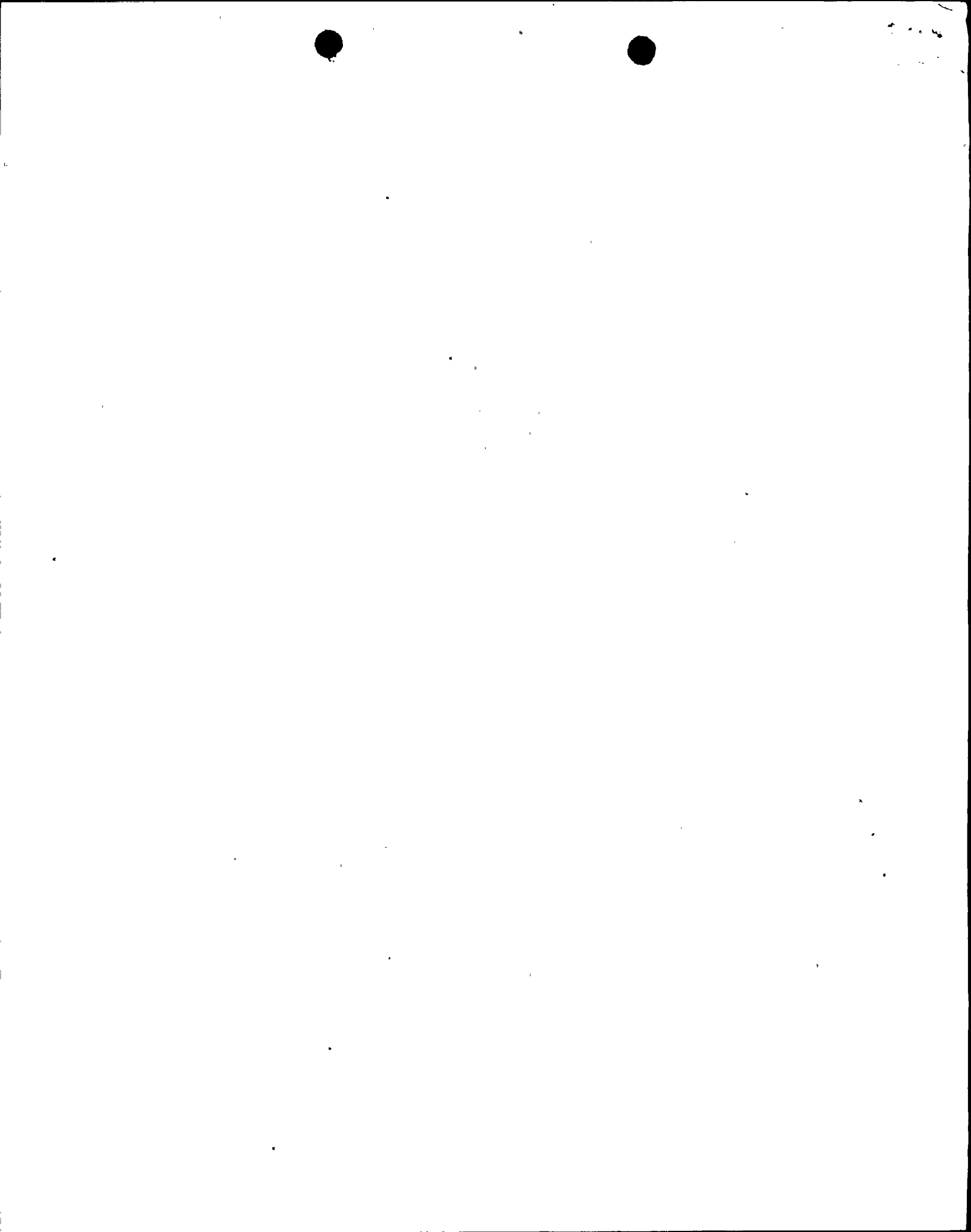
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EDO
 VStello
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OCA
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50-275
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United States House of Representatives
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Executive Director
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SECY 86-0962

OCA

DMossburg (#2114)

HSchierling

CVogan

PBaker (2)

*no legal
rejection*
OGC

L. CHANDLER
9/20/86

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9/17/86

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VStello
9/23/86

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NRR: DDir
HDenton
9/19/86

and S. A. T. (Lange)



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

ACTION

EDO PRINCIPAL CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL

FROM: REP. B. FIEDLER DUE: 09/24/86 EDO CONTROL: 002114
DOC DT: 09/04/86
FINAL REPLY:

TO: KAMMERER

FOR SIGNATURE OF: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ** GREEN ** SECY NO: 86-962

DESC: ENCLOSURES LETTER FROM DEANNE HOEL CONCERNING STORAGE OF SPENT FUEL AT DIABLO CANYON - REQUEST SAFETY HEARINGS

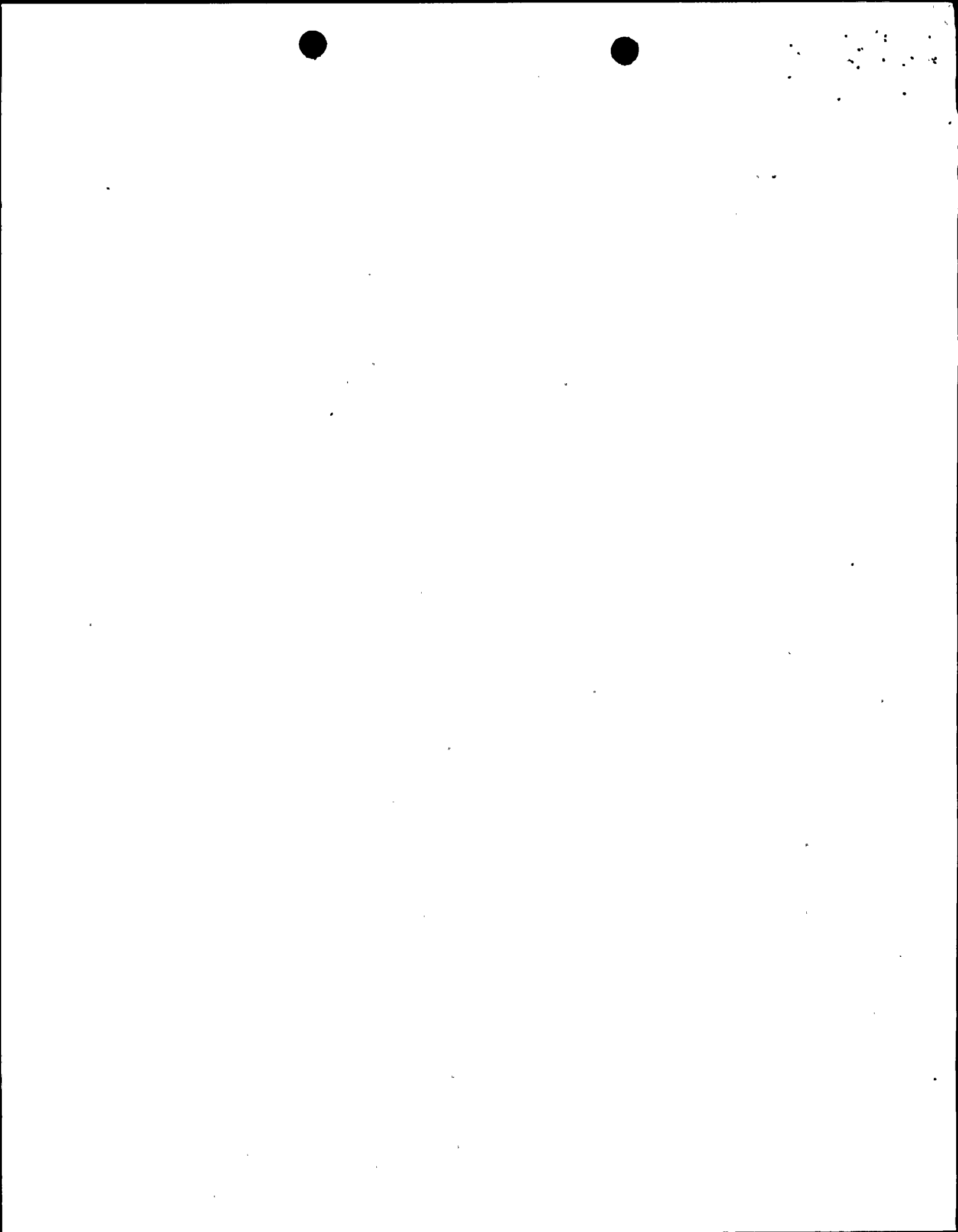
ROUTING: DAVIS
JMARTIN
GCUNNINGHAM

DATE: 09/10/86
ASSIGNED TO: NRR CONTACT: DENTON

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

RETURN INCOMING WITH REPLY.
MARK ENVELOPE ATTN: LOUISE GESSFORD.

NRR RECEIVED: 9/11/86
ACTION: DPLA:NOVAK
NRR ROUTING: DENTON/VOLLMER
PPAS
MOSSBURG



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-86-0962 LOGGING DATE: Sep 9 86
ACTION OFFICE: EDO
AUTHOR: B. Fiedler
AFFILIATION: U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
LETTER DATE: Sep 4 86 FILE CODE:
SUBJECT: Requests investigation of constituent concern
regarding unsafe storage of spent fuel at Chernobyl
as a major factor in the tragedy
ACTION: Direct Reply
DISTRIBUTION: OCA to Ack
SPECIAL HANDLING:
NOTES: Const Ref: Deanne Hoehman
DATE DUE: Sep 23 86
SIGNATURE: . DATE SIGNED:
AFFILIATION:

Rec'd Off. EDO
Date 9-10-86
Time 2:00

EDO — 002114

