



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

MAR 06 1987

NOTE TO: Steve Varga

SUBJECT: INPUT TO THE PANETTA RESPONSE

As agreed, attached is EB draft input to the letter you are preparing for Congressman Panetta in response to his letter of February 17, 1987.

*Ron Ballard*  
Ronald L. Ballard, Chief  
Engineering Branch  
Division of PWR Licensing-A

Attachment:  
As stated

cc: C. E. Rossi  
H. Schierling  
D. Jeng  
L. Olshan  
H. Ashar

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Draft: 3/6/87

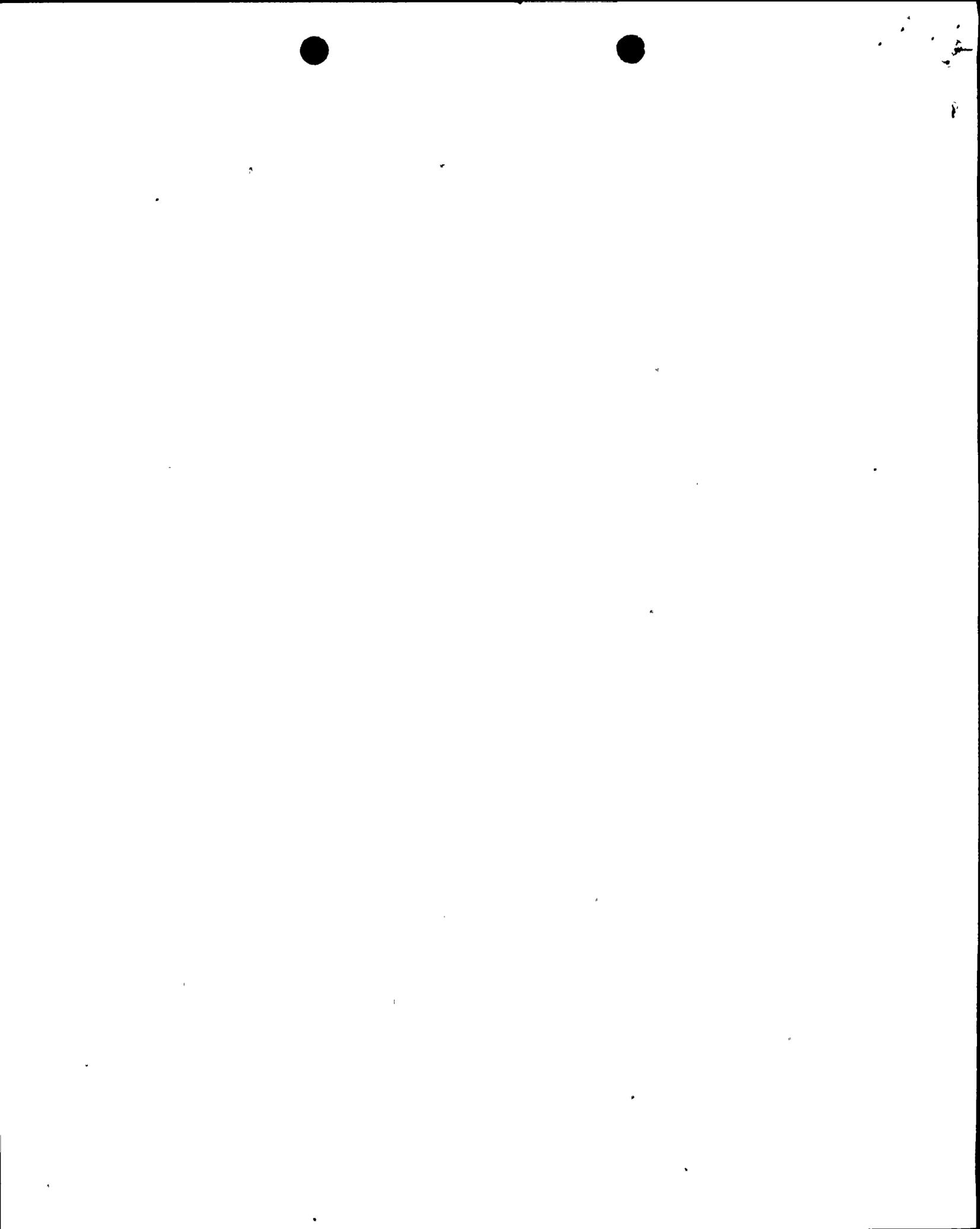
To: Honorable Leon E. Panetta

Dear Congressman Panetta:

This is in response to your letter to Chairman Zech dated February 12, 1987 regarding the adequacy of the staff evaluation of the proposed High Density Spent Fuel Racks (HDSFR) at Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. In the letter, you expressed concerns regarding the Commission's review of the Diablo Canyon Spent Fuel Rerack proposal. In particular, you noted that the NRC had retained a National Laboratory to perform a technical review of the Byron HDSFR, while treating the Diablo Canyon review in a different manner.

I wish to assure you that the proposed high density spent fuel rack application at Diablo Canyon has been subjected to a detailed review and evaluation by the NRC staff and its consultant, Franklin Research Center (FRC), and that all areas of significant hazards have been thoroughly investigated. Our activities on this matter were described to you in some detail in our letter of October 21, 1986. FRC is well qualified in the area of non-linear dynamic analysis of structures, and has recently evaluated similar proposals for the installation of free standing spent fuel racks for a number of other nuclear power plants.

In response to your expressed concern regarding apparent differences in the staff's review of the spent fuel racks for Byron as compared to our Diablo Canyon review, the staff has applied the same review criteria and analytical procedures for both evaluations. In fact, the staff's review of the Diablo Canyon spent fuel pool is its most extensive and thorough to date, primarily because of the greater seismic hazard potential at that site. The selection of Brookhaven National Laboratory to support the staff in the Byron spent fuel rerack review was dictated primarily by scheduler constraints and resource availability; resulting from FRC's commitment to the Diablo Canyon review. (For your information, we note that analytical capability needed to review the seismic adequacy of spent fuel racks is available at a number of engineering organizations and is not confined to the National Laboratories.)



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Because of the special attention recently given to the rerack issue, the staff is currently seeking additional information at Diablo Canyon and is following a similar course of action at Byron. However, to clarify a point raised in your letter, the staff has not rejected as inadequate the manufacturers analysis in either case. In order to assure that a complete public record is obtained on the issue, a Brookhaven representative will participate in the Diablo Canyon hearing as a member of the NRC staff panel. I trust that this increased participation will appropriately address your concerns.

