

ORIGINAL

67-120A-91

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Agency: Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Incident Investigation Team

Title: Nine Mile Point Nuclear Power Plant  
Interview of: PERRY BERTSCH

Docket No.

LOCATION: Scriba, New York

DATE: Friday, August 23, 1991

PAGES: 1 - 10

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1612 K St. N.W., Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
(202) 293-3950.

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ADDENDUM

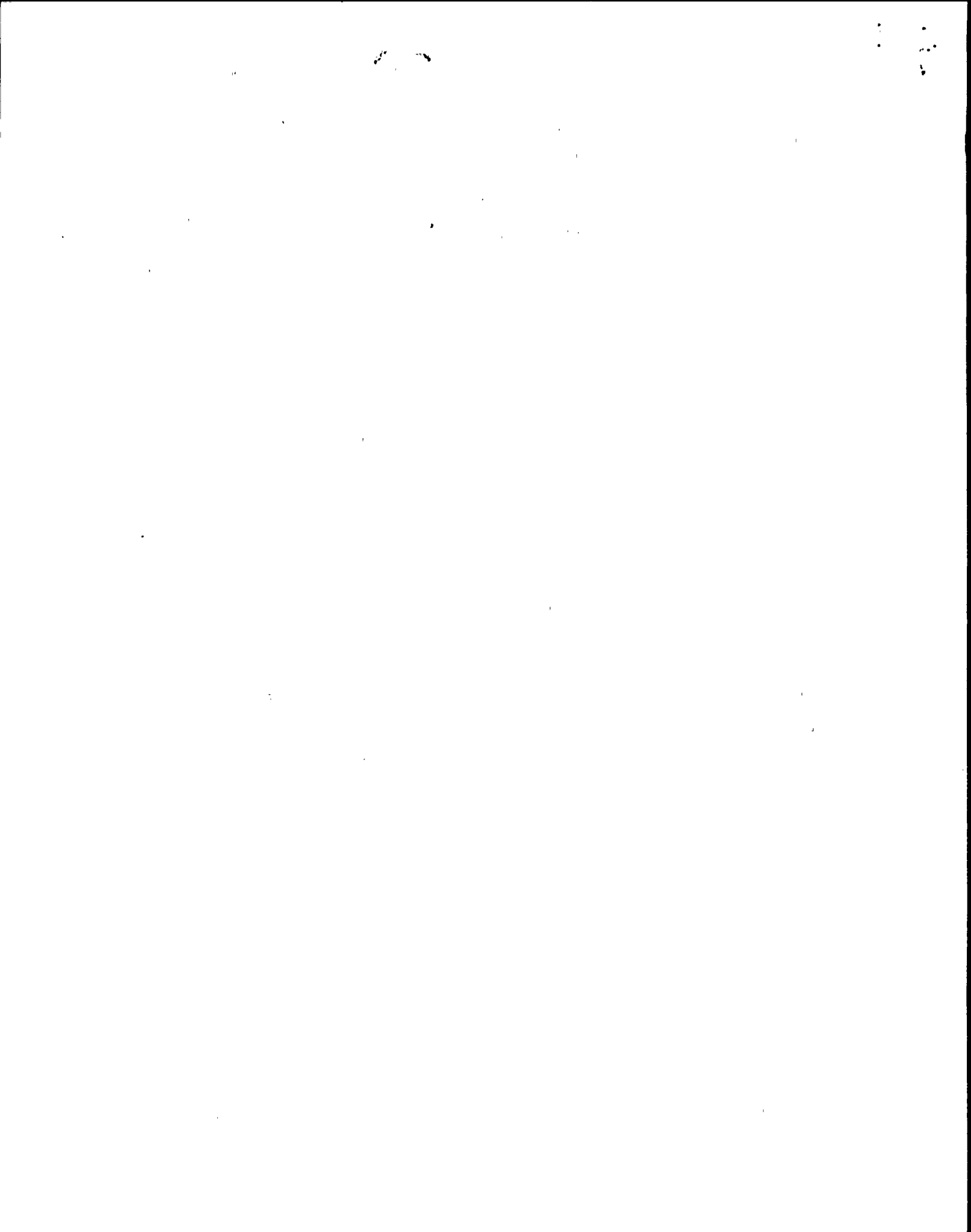
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Date 10/1/91 Signature 



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
INCIDENT INVESTIGATION TEAM

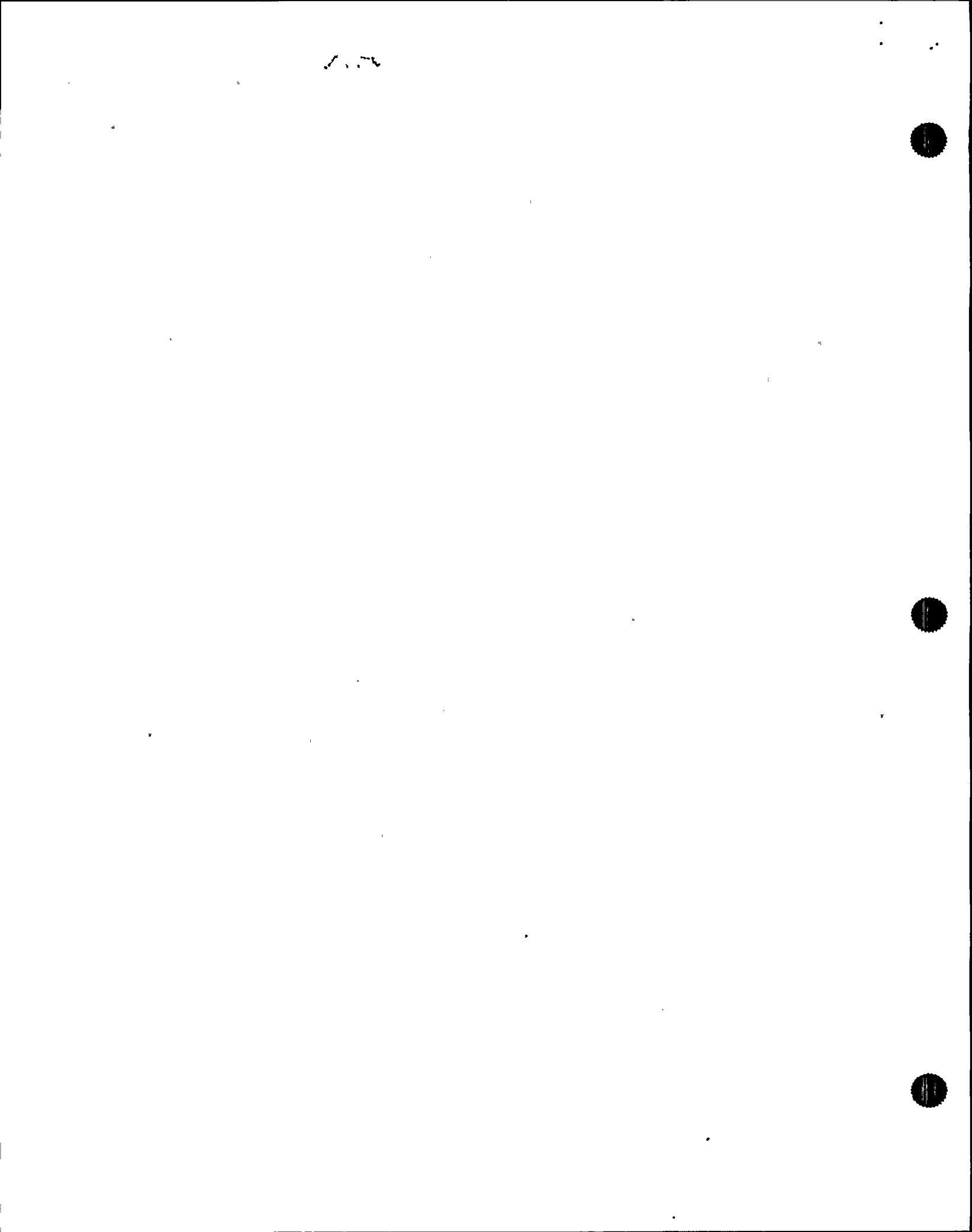
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Interview of :  
PERRY BERTSCH :  
(Closed) :  
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Conference Room B  
Administration Building  
Nine Mile Point Nuclear  
Power Plant, Unit Two  
Lake Road  
Scriba, New York 13093  
Friday, August 23, 1991

The interview commenced, pursuant to notice,  
at 1:10 p.m.

PRESENT FOR THE IIT:  
Frank Ashe, NRC  
Jim Stoner, Duke, NRC



## P R O C E E D I N G S

[2:08 p.m.]

1  
2  
3 MR. ASHE: My name is Frank Ashe and I'm a member  
4 of the Incident Investigation Team being -- as a  
5 participant. I have today, Mr. Perry Bertsch who is in the  
6 instrumentation and control department and we would like to  
7 record some information from him.

8 Perry, could you go over and give us some of your  
9 background and history with the station in terms of your  
10 work activities and how long you've been employed here?

11 MR. BERTSCH: I've been with Niagara Mohawk since  
12 October of 1983. And I came in as a technician in the I&C  
13 department. And I've been here through most of the startup  
14 and I've worked on these units and various other equipment  
15 in the plant during that time.

16 MR. ASHE: Okay. When you say worked on this  
17 equipment, could you explain --

18 MR. BERTSCH: Yes. On uninterruptable power  
19 supplies, all the ones we have on site, or at least the ones  
20 that are in the plant and all sorts of other equipment.

21 MR. ASHE: Could you give us some of your work  
22 activities, specifics of some of your work activities?

23 MR. BERTSCH: During start-up, initial testing,  
24 calibration of valves and control circuits and control cards  
25 and start-up and maintenance functions on the -- on the





1     uninterruptable power supplies, maintenance on redundant  
2     reactivity control system, trouble shooting repair, doing  
3     various surveillance tests on the various instrumentation  
4     that we have in the plant.

5             MR. ASHE:   Okay.   In terms of the UPS that failed  
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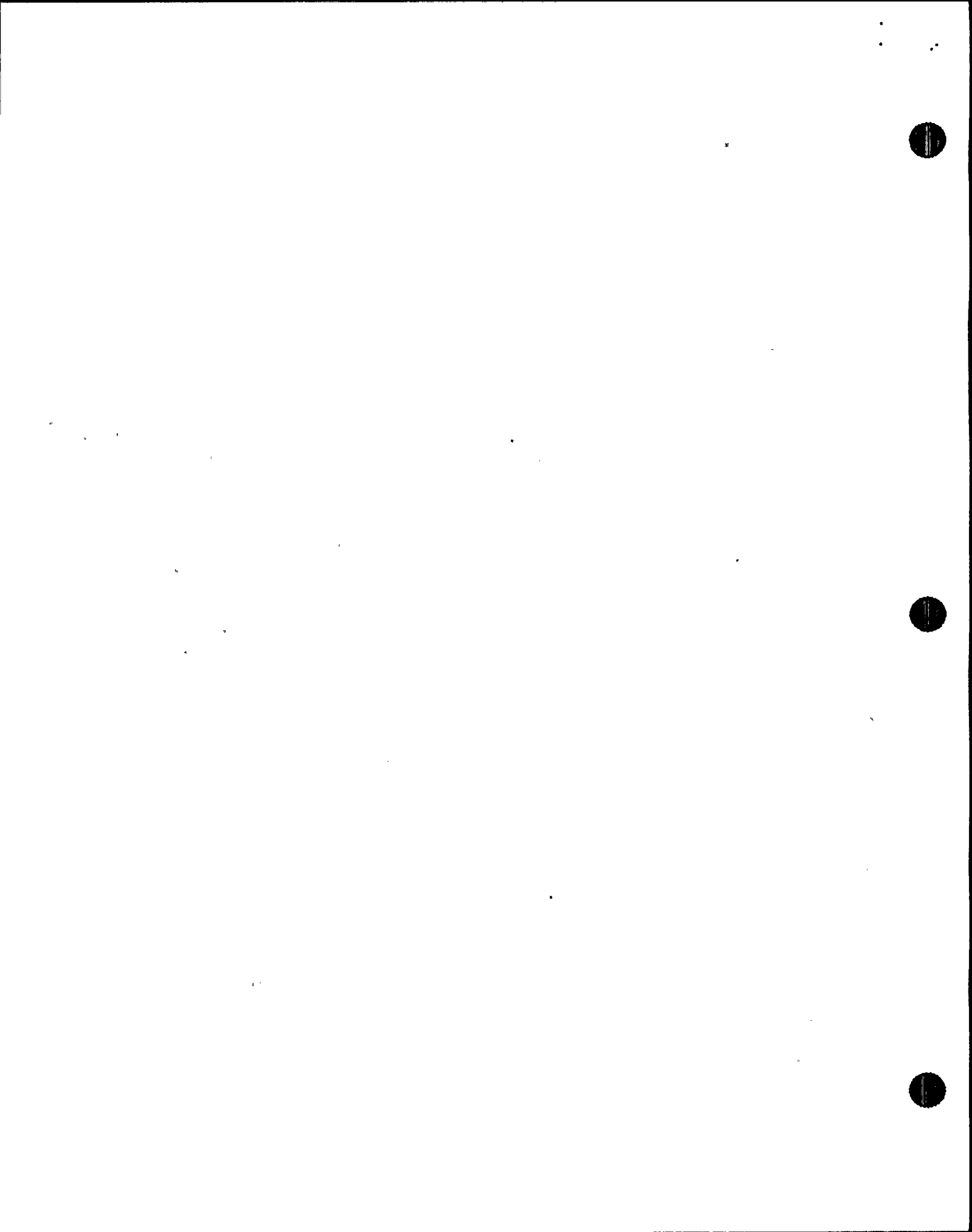
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13    preventive maintenance along the way, various corrective  
14    maintenance, you know, trouble shooting if something goes  
15    wrong, assisting operators and training them on how to do  
16    various things on the units.  If the unit fails actually  
17    going through there, you know, tuning down component level  
18    replacement or fuses or whatever else.  Normally various  
19    things like that with electrical maintenance.

20            MR. ASHE:   Were you involved with the recovery of  
21    the units following their failure?

22            MR. BERTSCH:   Yes.

23            MR. ASHE:   Could you, as best you could, recall,  
24    explain your involvement and the activities that you  
25    participated in?



1 MR. BERTSCH: I was a member of damage control  
2 team three and we went down there to attempt to restart the  
3 five Exide units. We went down and then -- let's see --  
4 reset the trips, closed the breakers in and restarted the --  
5 I forgot the order in which we started them up in. I  
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15 MR. ASHE: Do you have an opinion as to what may  
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17 MR. BERTSCH: At the time of the event, no.

18 MR. ASHE: At the time of the event?

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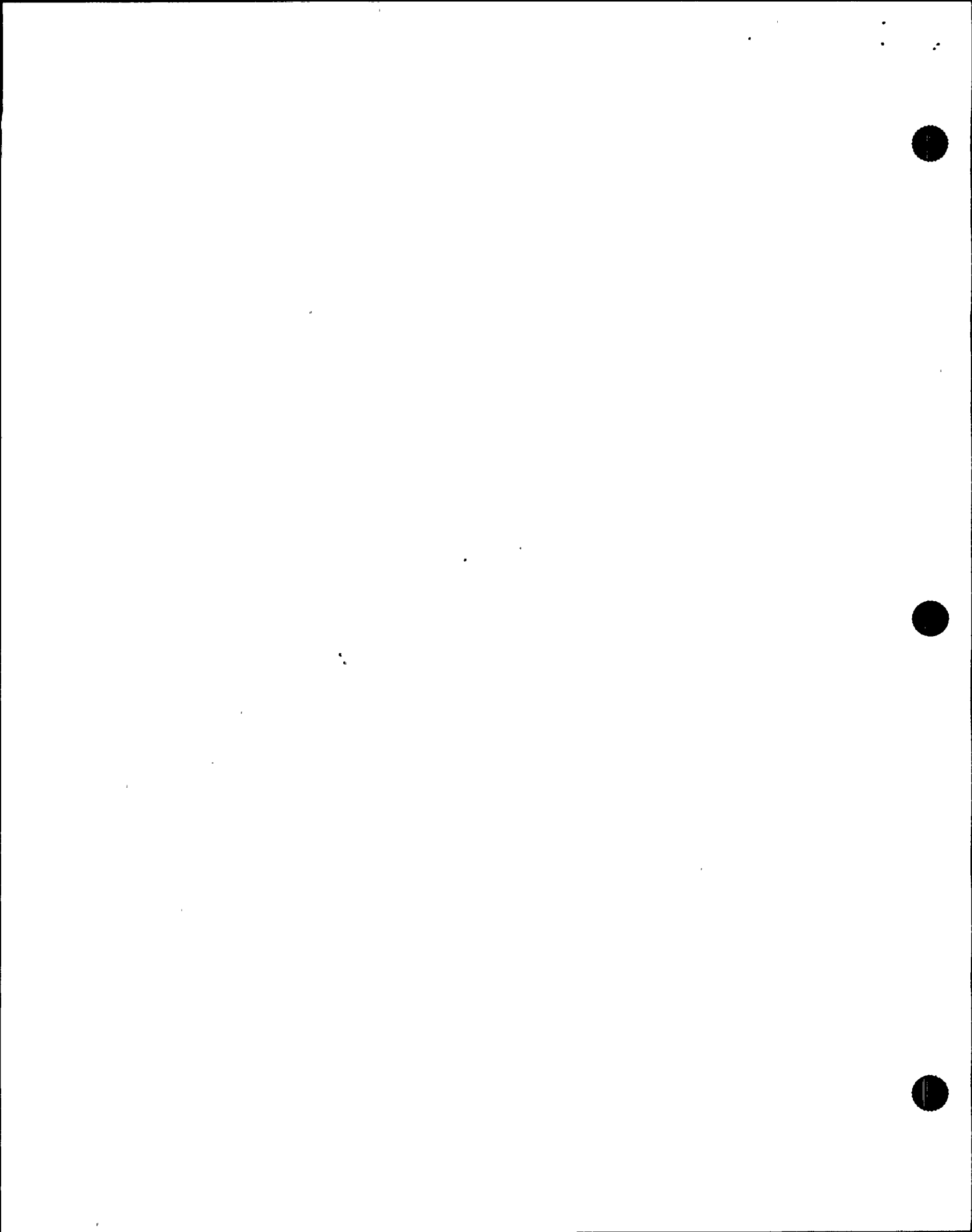
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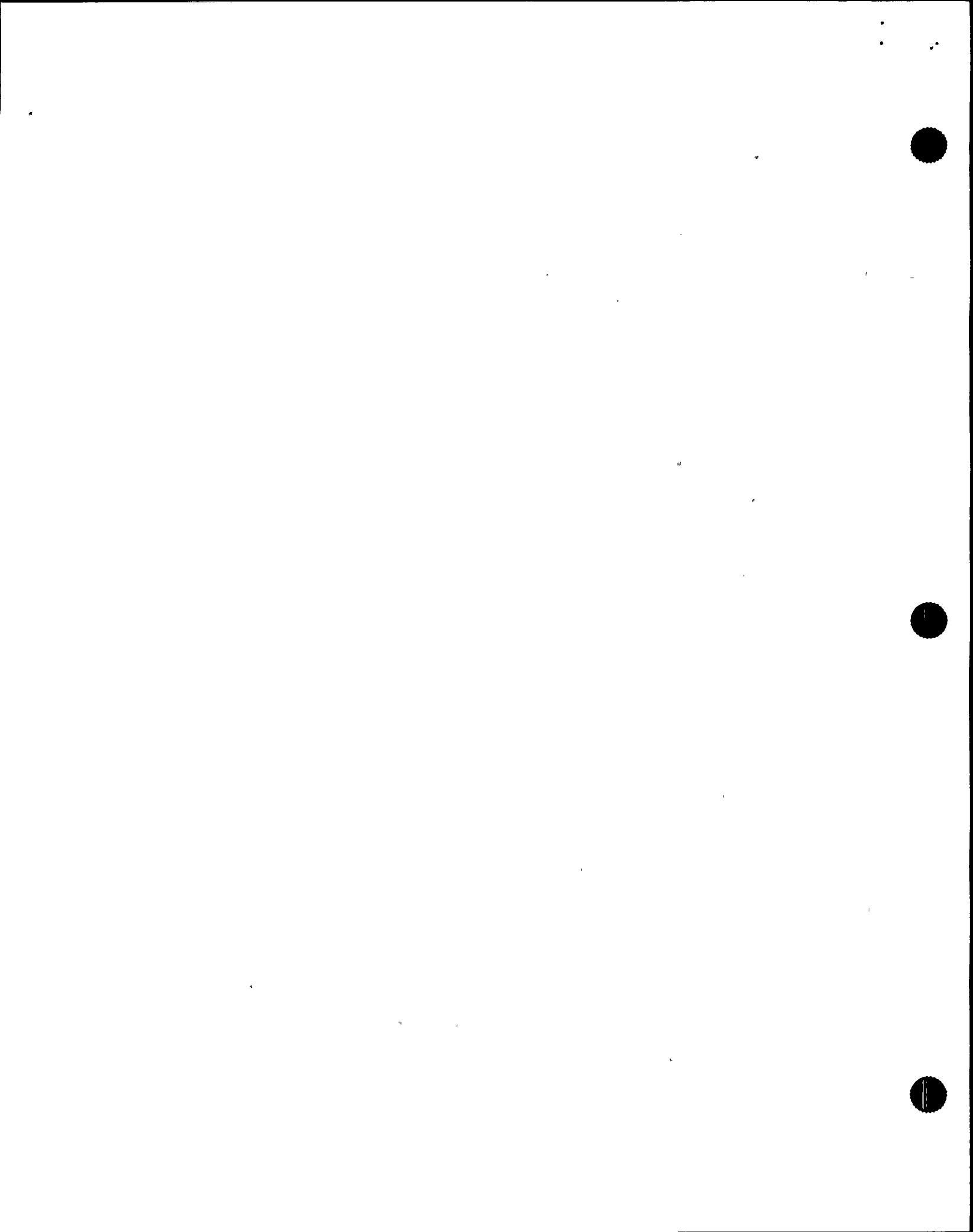
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3 MR. ASHE: -- performance --

4 MR. BERTSCH: -- unrelatable.

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8 [Pause.]

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12 MR. BERTSCH: Unit one at UPS-1A is slightly  
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14 card in there. So when that unit is started up, you get an  
15 alarm indicating that circuit breaker 2, the DC input  
16 breaker is still opened until that's closed. And that's  
17 just the fact that we've got -- they don't make our --  
18 certain of our cards anymore and there's a new generation  
19 card in there. That's the only difference between UPS-1A  
20 and versus 1B, 1C, 1D and 1G.

21 MR. ASHE: Are there any special characteristics  
22 of a particular unit that you would consider undesirable  
23 prior to this event occurring?

24 MR. BERTSCH: Not really. The only thing we seem  
25 to have problems with -- we've had problems, you know on



1 occasions with CB-3 and CB-4 switching, you know, maybe the  
2 design of that, but they're not designed to be cycled as  
3 often as we do -- being in a station and going through  
4 startup. But other than that, there's nothing that I --

5 MR. ASHE: -- can think of. So, prior to the  
6 event, as far as your knowledge, the performance of the  
7 units were satisfactory?

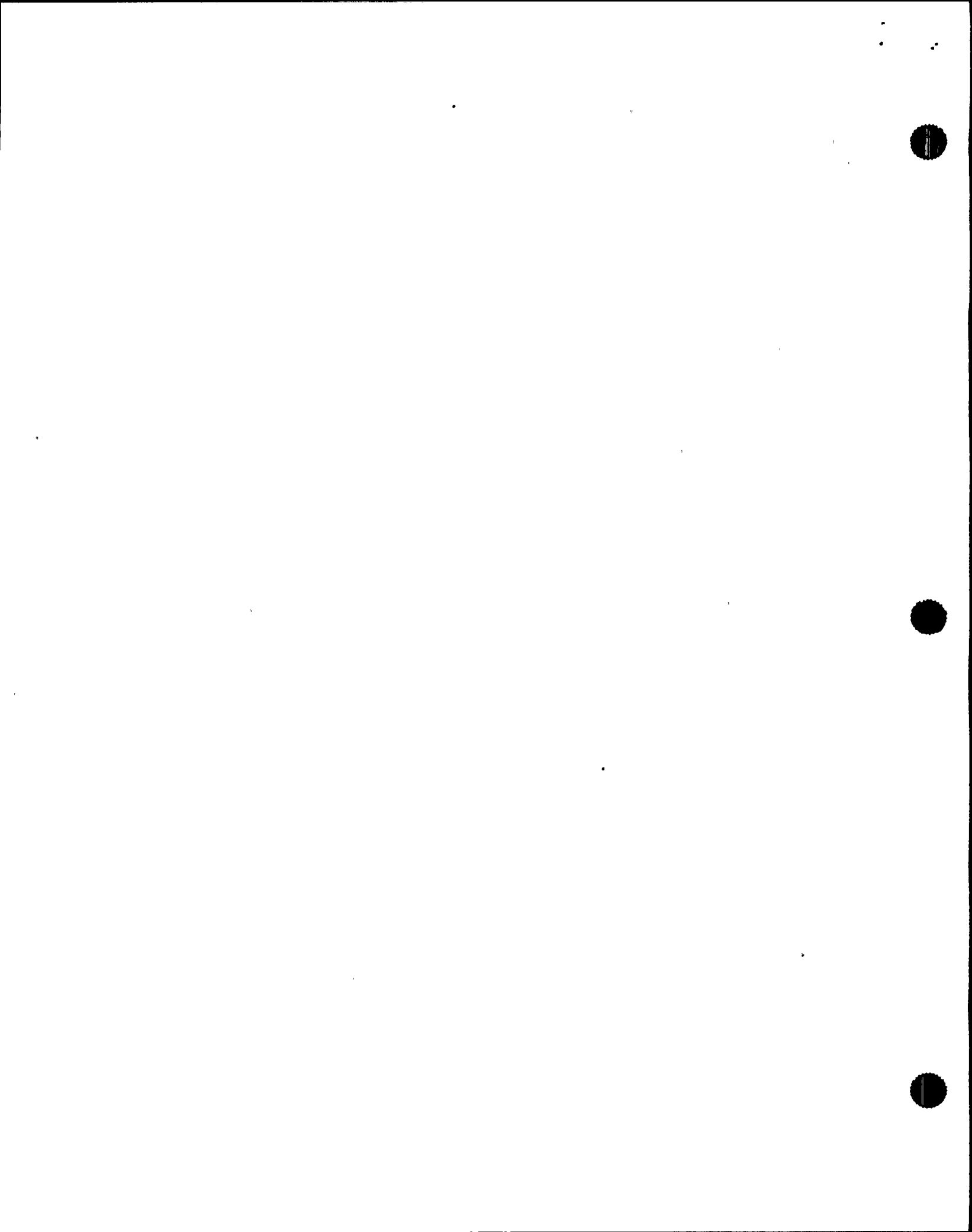
8 MR. BERTSCH: Pretty much. The fact that they  
9 have -- 1C and 1D are running at load. That's the only  
10 problem I can see with those, but as far as the other ones,  
11 there isn't --

12 MR. ASHE: Were there any maintenance request or  
13 work orders that you are aware of that suggested work to be  
14 done on some units prior to the event?

15 MR. BERTSCH: UPS-1B, to have CB-3 breaker  
16 replaced.

17 MR. ASHE: Why? Do you recall why that breaker  
18 was being replaced?

19 MR. BERTSCH: Because the motor operator wouldn't  
20 have enough oomph to close the breaker -- or actually no, to  
21 reset the breaker on a trip. The unit on a transfer to  
22 bypass sends a trip signal to the motor operator to open the  
23 breaker and also a shunt trip signal to CB-3 and CB-3 would  
24 trip, but the motor operator didn't have enough force to be  
25 able to reset the breaker. The motor operator was replace



1 previously and it had no effect. So we suspect there's a  
2 problem with the circuit breaker itself, requiring too much  
3 force to reset.

4 MR. ASHE: Is there anything else, Perry, that you  
5 would like to share with us that I haven't asked you? That  
6 perhaps I should have.

7 [Pause.]

8 MR. BERTSCH: I'm not sure what else there would  
9 be.

10 MR. ASHE: Okay. Jim, do you have any additional  
11 questions?

12 MR. STONER: No.

13 MR. ASHE: This completes this interview.

14 [Whereupon, at 2:22 p.m., the taking of the  
15 interview was concluded.]

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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

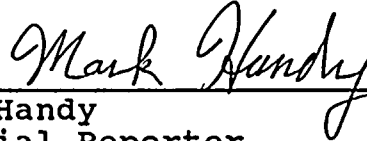
In the Matter of:

NAME OF PROCEEDING: Interview of Perry Bertsch

DOCKET NUMBER: (Not applicable)

PLACE OF PROCEEDING: Scriba, New York

were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing proceedings.



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Mark Handy  
Official Reporter  
Ann Riley & Associates, Ltd.



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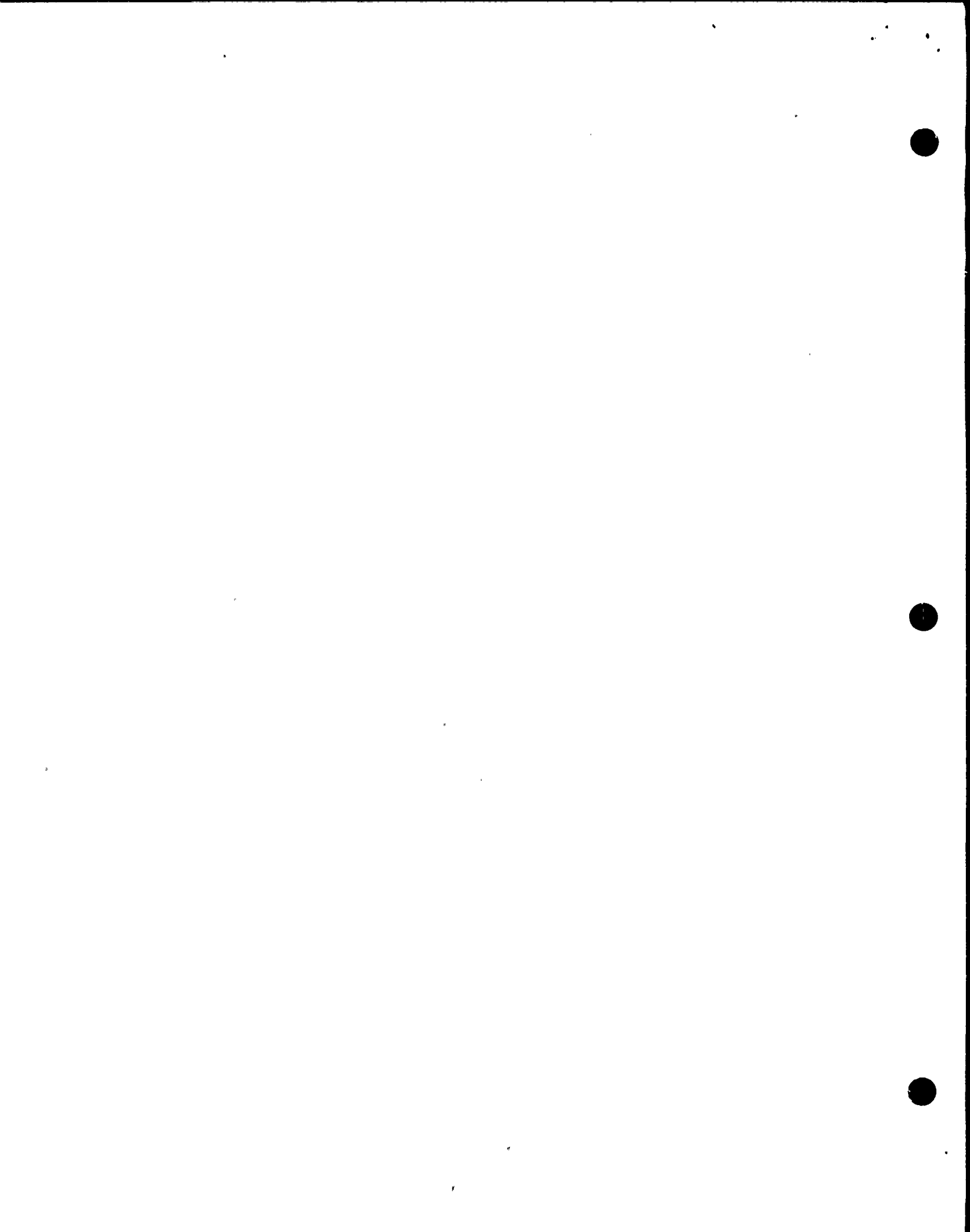
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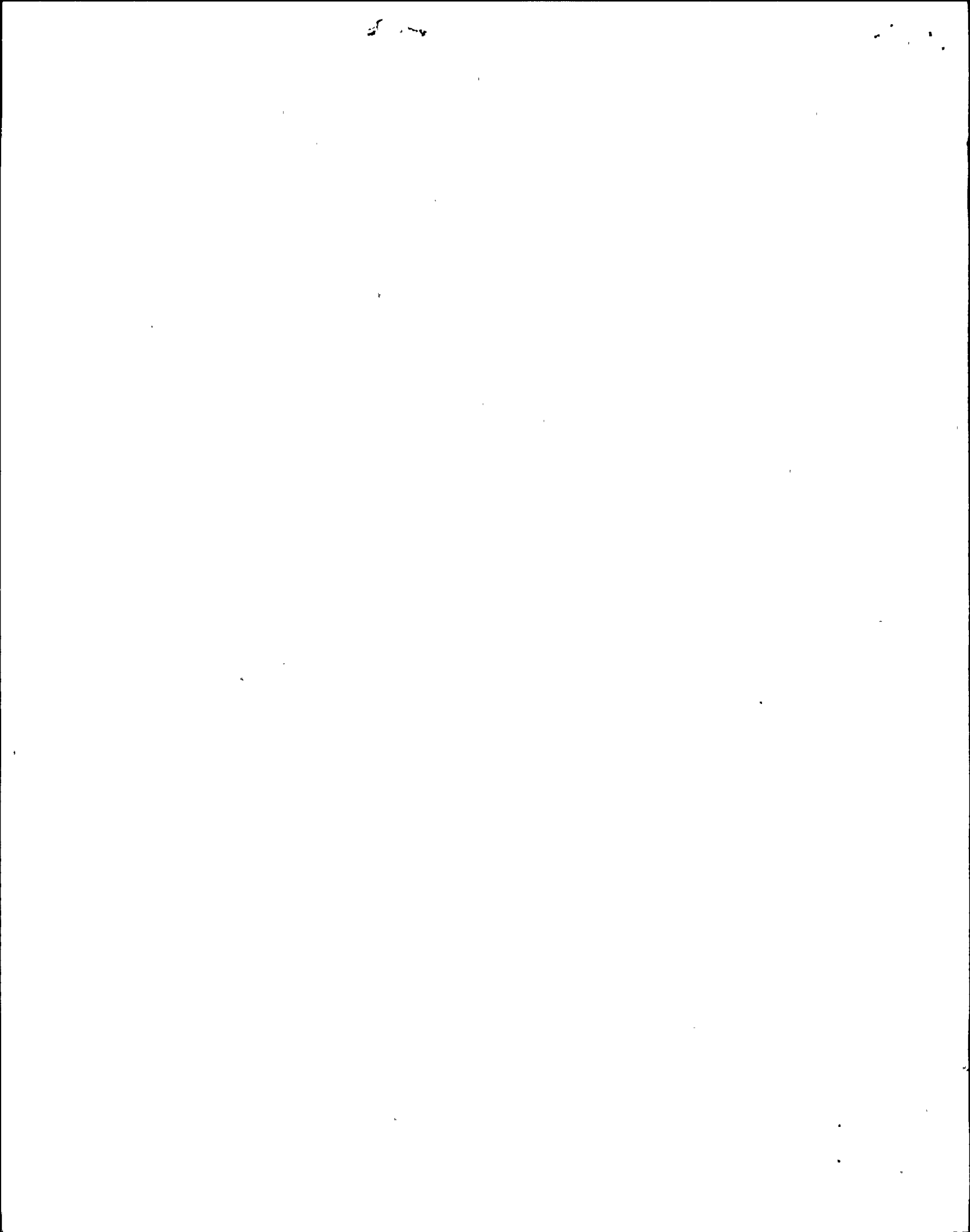
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## ADDENDUM

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Date 10/1/91Signature 



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NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
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6 event, as far as your knowledge, the performance of the  
7 units were satisfactory?

8 MR. BERTSCH: Pretty much. The fact that they  
9 have -- 1C and 1D are running at load. That's the only  
10 problem I can see with those, but as far as the other ones,  
11 there isn't --

12 MR. ASHE: Were there any maintenance request or  
13 work orders that you are aware of that suggested work to be  
14 done on some units prior to the event?

15 MR. BERTSCH: UPS-1B, to have CB-3 breaker  
16 replaced.

17 MR. ASHE: Why? Do you recall why that breaker  
18 was being replaced?

19 MR. BERTSCH: Because the motor operator wouldn't  
20 have enough oomph to close the breaker -- or actually no, to  
21 reset the breaker on a trip. The unit on a transfer to  
22 bypass sends a trip signal to the motor operator to open the  
23 breaker and also a shunt trip signal to CB-3 and CB-3 would  
24 trip, but the motor operator didn't have enough force to be  
25 able to reset the breaker. The motor operator was replace





1 previously and it had no effect. So we suspect there's a  
2 problem with the circuit breaker itself, requiring too much  
3 force to reset.

4 MR. ASHE: Is there anything else, Perry, that you  
5 would like to share with us that I haven't asked you? That  
6 perhaps I should have.

7 [Pause.]

8 MR. BERTSCH: I'm not sure what else there would  
9 be.

10 MR. ASHE: Okay. Jim, do you have any additional  
11 questions?

12 MR. STONER: No.

13 MR. ASHE: This completes this interview.

14 [Whereupon, at 2:22 p.m., the taking of the  
15 interview was concluded.]

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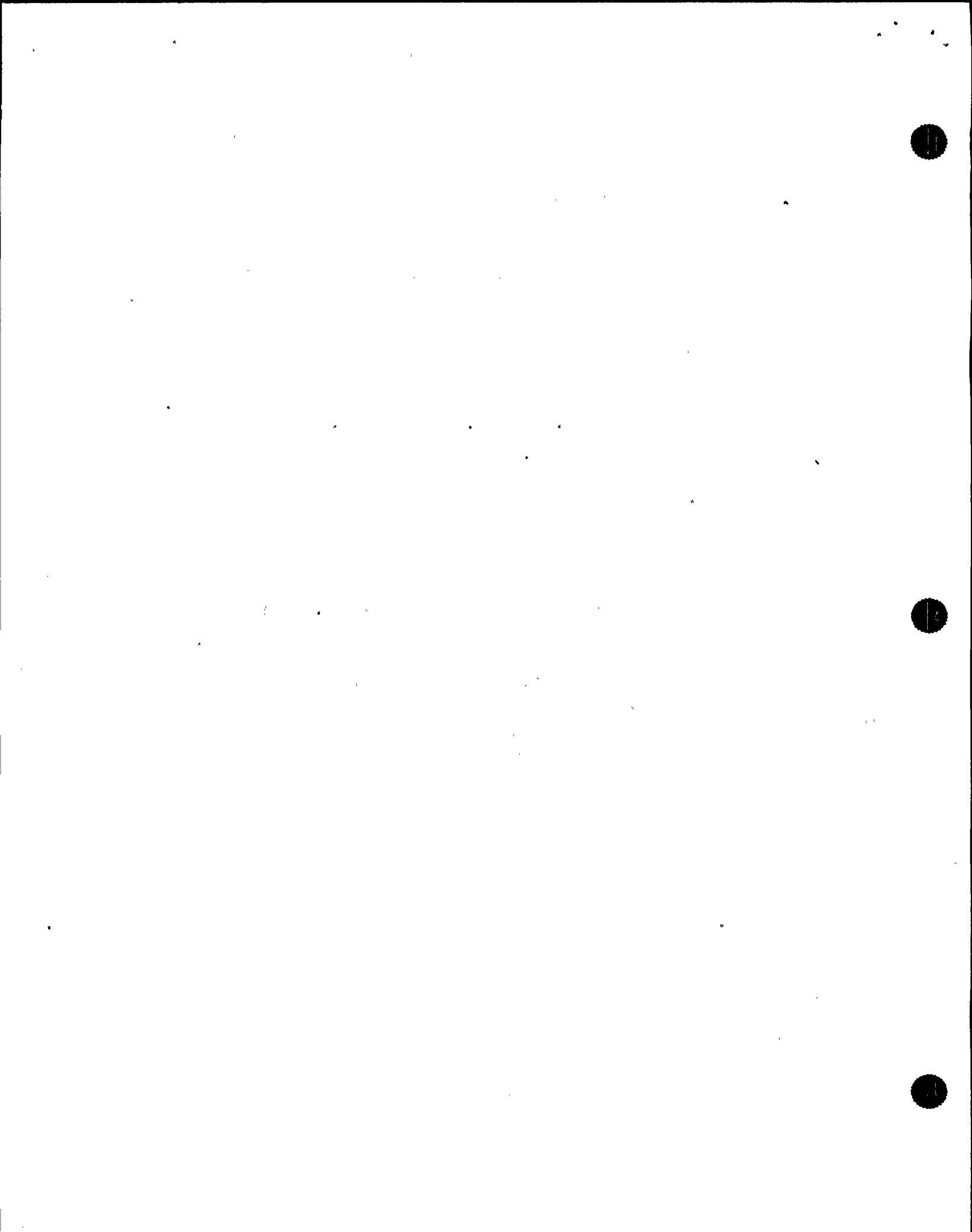
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REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceedings before the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

In the Matter of:

NAME OF PROCEEDING: Interview of Perry Bertsch

DOCKET NUMBER: (Not applicable)

PLACE OF PROCEEDING: Scriba, New York

were held as herein appears, and that this is the original transcript thereof for the file of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission taken by me and thereafter reduced to typewriting by me or under the direction of the court reporting company, and that the transcript is a true and accurate record of the foregoing proceedings.

*Mark Handy*

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Mark Handy  
Official Reporter  
Ann Riley & Associates, Ltd.

