

June 7, 1994

The Honorable Sam Nunn  
United States Senator  
75 Spring Street, S.W.  
Suite 1700  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Dear Senator Nunn:

I am responding to your letter dated May 5, 1994, in which you relayed the concerns of a constituent regarding cooling of stored spent fuel at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station and other nuclear power plants, including the two units at the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant near Baxley, Georgia. In your letter, you requested that the NRC review these concerns and provide a report to you.

The NRC is aware of the issues on spent fuel pool cooling raised by Messrs. Lochbaum and Prevatte and is currently evaluating the safety significance of those concerns. The staff's preliminary review has determined the loss of spent fuel pool cooling issues raised by Messrs. Lochbaum and Prevatte to be of low safety significance. Specifically, the staff considered a loss-of-coolant accident or loss-of-offsite power coupled with the subsequent failure of numerous reactor core cooling systems and the failure of, or inability to restore cooling to, the spent fuel storage pool to be a low probability sequence of events. The staff is conducting a thorough, comprehensive evaluation of the issues to confirm its preliminary assessment. As part of the comprehensive review, the staff will evaluate the applicability of the issues raised to other nuclear power plants throughout the United States.

To date, the staff has issued an information notice informing all boiling water reactor (BWR) licensees of the potential for the loss of spent fuel pool cooling (Information Notice 93-83, "Potential Loss of Spent Fuel Pool Cooling Following a Loss of Coolant Accident (LOCA)"). In addition, the staff requested and received from the BWR Owners Group a generic assessment, dated March 4, 1994, of the spent fuel pool cooling concerns. If, as a result of its review of the postulated safety hazard at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, the staff determines that further generic action is warranted, it will take appropriate action.

I trust this letter is responsive to your concerns.

Sincerely,

Original signed by  
James M. Taylor

James M. Taylor  
Executive Director  
for Operations

9406130089 940607  
PDR ADOCK 05000387  
PDR

cc: See next page  
\*see previous page for concurrence

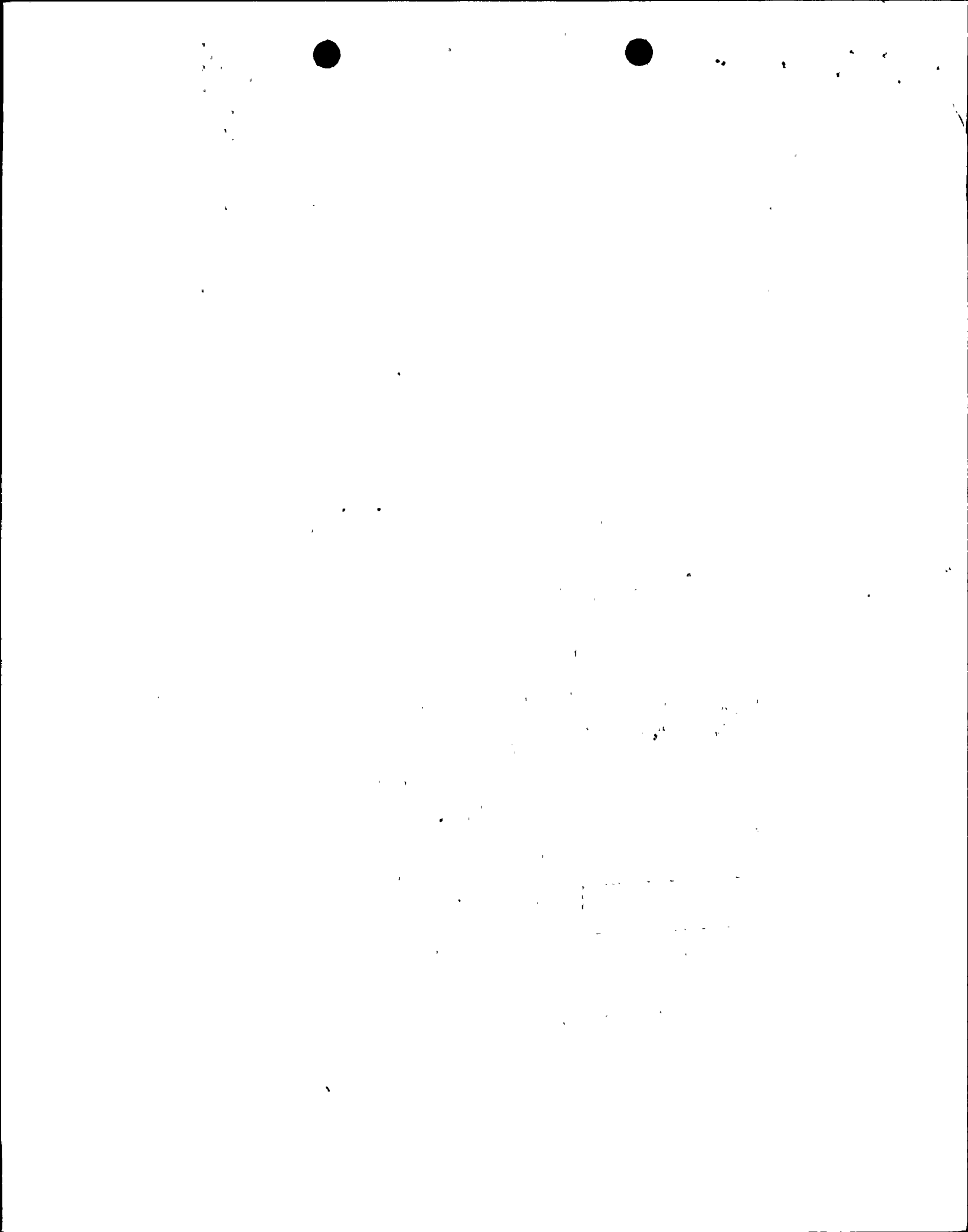
PDI-2/LA*	PDI-2/PM*	PDI-2/D*	TECH EDITOR*	DRPE/AD*	DSSA/D*
MO'Brien	JShea	CMiller	RSanders	JCalvo	MVirgilio
5/25/94	5/25/94	5/25/94	5/23/94	5/24/94	5/24/94
DRPE/D*	NRR/ADP*	NRR/D*	EDO	OCA	
SVarga	LReyes	WRussell	JMTaylor		
5/24/94	5/25/94	5/26/94	6/6/94	6/7/94	

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Susquehanna Steam Electric Station,  
Units 1 & 2

cc:

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DISTRIBUTION

Docket File (50-387/388 w/incoming)  
Central File  
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CM  
5/20/94

**ACTION**

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

FROM: DUE: 05/31/94

EDO CONTROL: 0010074  
DOC DT: 05/05/94  
FINAL REPLY:

Sen. Sam Nunn

TO:

Dennis Rathbun

FOR SIGNATURE OF : \*\* GRN \*\*

CRC NO: 94-0467

Executive Director

DESC:

ROUTING:

ENCLOSES LETTER FROM DAVID A. LOCHBAUM AND DONALD C. PREVATTE CONCERNING SAFETY HAZARD INVOLVING DESIGN OF THE SUSQUEHANNA STEAM ELECTRIC STATION AND OTHER PLANTS WITH SIMILAR DESIGN.

Taylor  
Milhoan  
Thompson  
Blaha  
TTMartin, RI ✓

DATE: 05/18/94

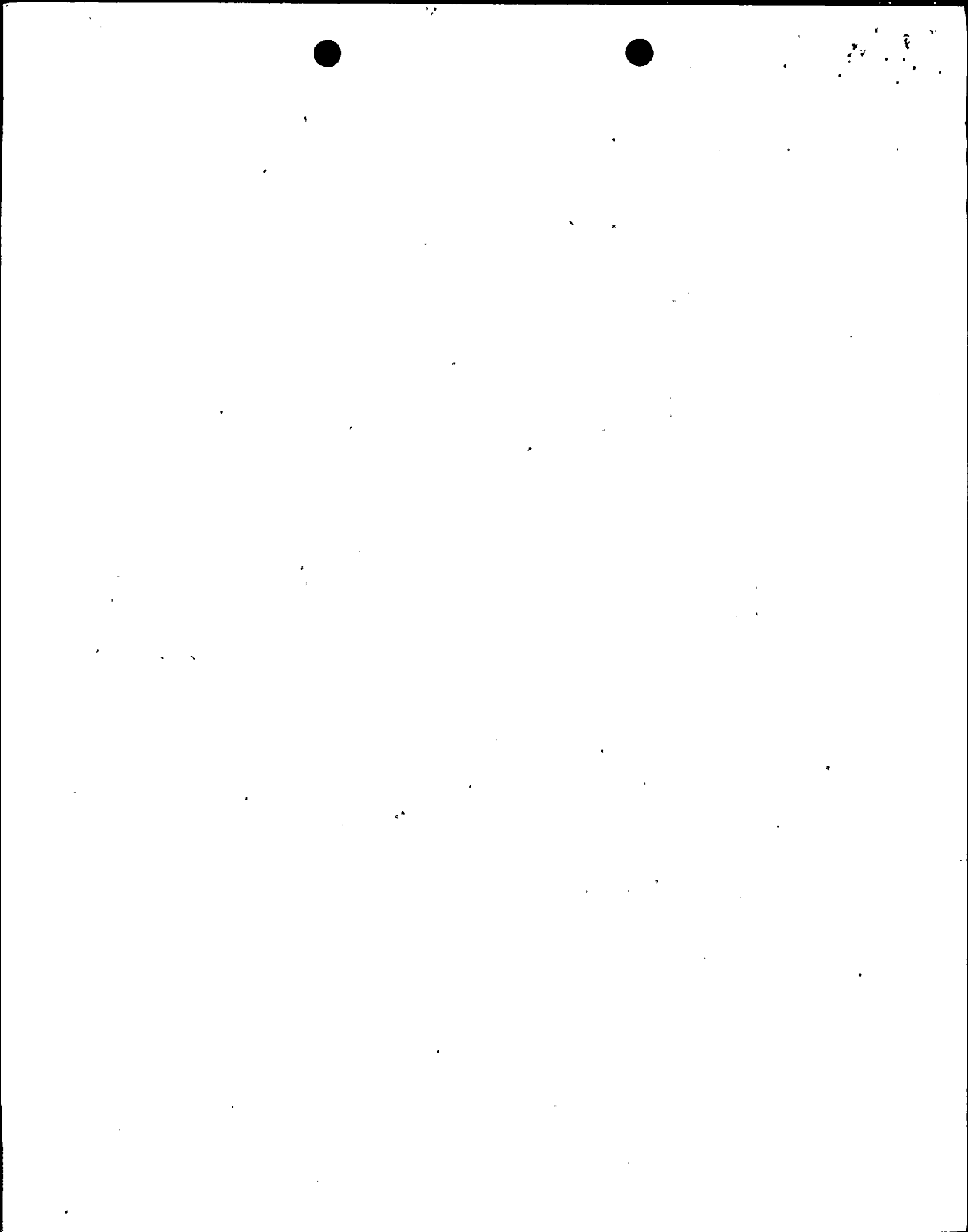
ASSIGNED TO: CONTACT:  
NRR Russell

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

Ref. EDO 10053.  
Reply to Atlanta, GA office.  
Mark envelope ATTN: Patricia Murphy.

NRR RECEIVED: MAY 18, 1994  
NRR ACTION: DRPE:VARGA  
NRR ROUTING: RUSSELL  
MIRAGLIA  
REYES  
THADANI  
CRUTCHFIELD  
GILLESPIE  
BOHRER

**ACTION**  
DUE TO NRR DIRECTOR'S OFFICE  
BY *O'Jany* 25, '94



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
CORRESPONDENCE CONTROL TICKET

PAPER NUMBER: CRC-94-0467                      LOGGING DATE: May 17 94  
ACTION OFFICE: EDO  
AUTHOR: SEN SAM NUNN  
AFFILIATION: U.S. SENATE  
ADDRESSEE: RATHBUN  
LETTER DATE: May 5 94                      FILE CODE:  
SUBJECT: SUBSTANTIAL NUCLEAR SAFETY HAZARD IN CONTAINMENT  
DESIGN AT SUSQUEHANNA AND POSSIBLY OTHER NUCLEAR  
FACILITIES  
ACTION: Signature of EDO  
DISTRIBUTION: COMRS, OCA TO ACK  
SPECIAL HANDLING: NONE  
CONSTITUENT: D. LOCHBAUM & D. PREVATTE  
NOTES:  
DATE DUE: Jun. 1 94  
SIGNATURE:                                      DATE SIGNED:  
AFFILIATION:

EDO --- 010074