

# FORD 1

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MARTIN,J.B. Region 5 (Post 820201)  
RECIP.NAME RECIPIENT AFFILIATION  
MAZUR,D.W. Washington Public Power Supply System

SUBJECT: Forwards mgt meeting rept 50-397/91-14 on 910502.Causes of unsatisfactory program include:operators not acceptably proficient in use & did not consistently adhere to EOPs.

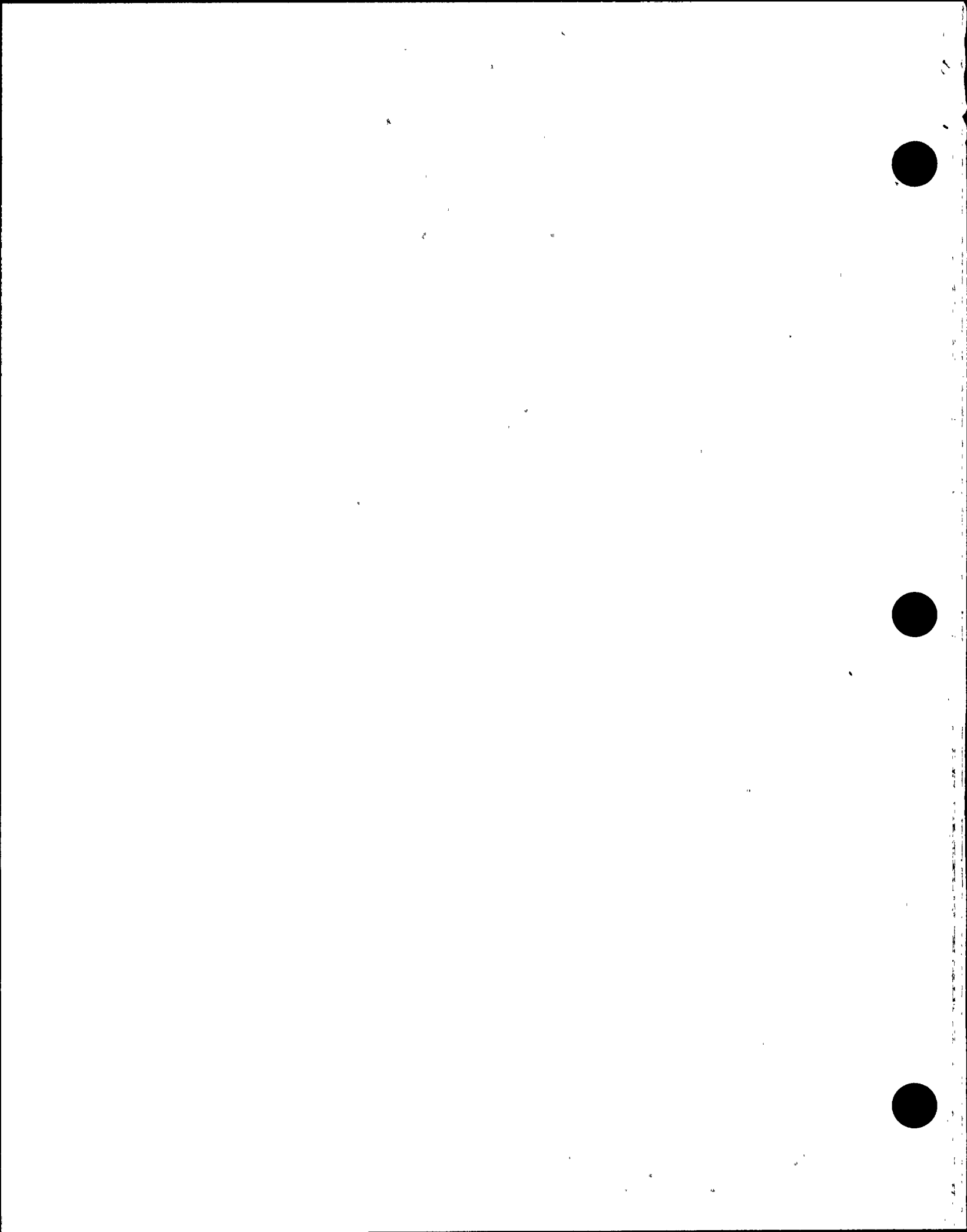
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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION  
REGION V

1450 MARIA LANE, SUITE 210  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596

MAY 16 1991

Docket No. 50-397

Washington Public Power Supply System  
P. O. Box 968  
3000 George Washington Way  
Richland, Washington 99352

Attention: Mr. D. W. Mazur, Managing Director

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF MEETING BETWEEN NRC AND WPPSS ON MAY 2, 1991 AT WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA (REPORT NO. 50-397/91-14)

REFERENCE: 1) Letter, A. L. Oxsen to J. B. Martin, Unsatisfactory Licensed Operator Requalification Training Program - Root Cause Assessment and Corrective Actions, dated April 15, 1991

This letter is to summarize the meeting held in the NRC Region V office on May 2, 1991 between senior NRC management and Washington Public Power Supply System management (Enclosure 1).

As a result of the discussions which were held in that meeting concerning the recent requalification program failure, we concluded that there are two root causes for the unsatisfactory program. First, the operators were not acceptably proficient in the use of and did not consistently adhere to the Emergency Operating Procedures (EOPs). Second, the training program did not adequately maintain the skills of the operating crews during the requalification training cycle.

From our discussions and the Supply System's presentation of the requalification examination results, it appeared to us that your management staff was not convinced that certain of your operators performed unsatisfactorily during the examination and operational evaluation. Instead, management appeared focused on administration of the examination as the basis for the unexpected poor performance by the operators.

In particular, the Supply System identified a number of root causes for their unsatisfactory program, including: operator stress due to rumors about the upcoming exam, and unexpected NRC changes in scenario difficulty and the examination process.

While these concerns deserve evaluation, they are separate from the significant, central safety concern that licensed operators at WNP-2 did not demonstrate a firm commitment to using their EOPs, and they have not been adequately trained to do so.

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MAY 16 1991

A followup meeting has been scheduled with senior Supply System representatives on May 20, 1991 at 1 p.m. in the Region V offices in Walnut Creek, California to discuss further what your current perception is of the factors that led to the operator and training weaknesses which were observed, and to discuss your detailed plans and schedule for corrective action.

Sincerely,



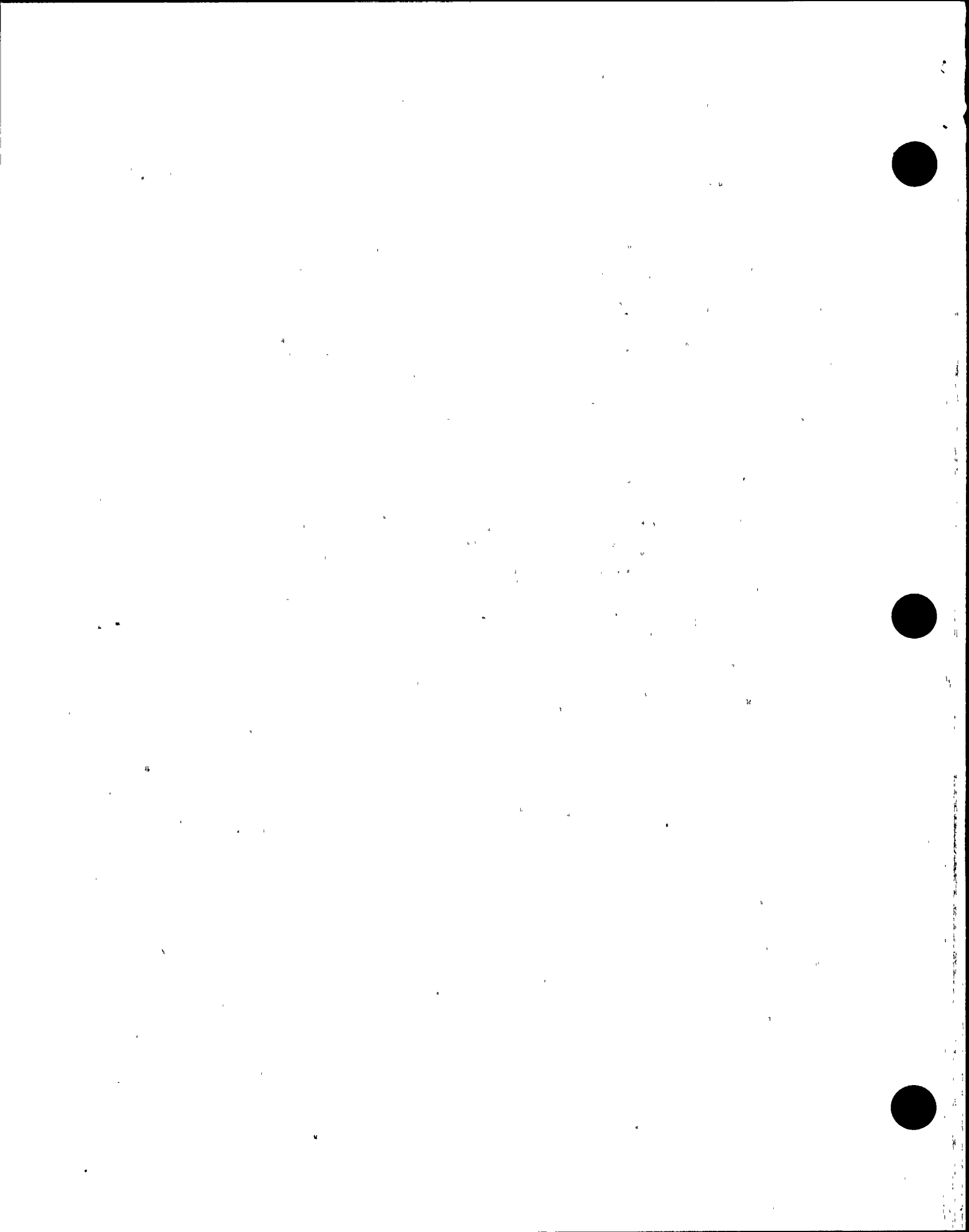
J. B. Martin  
Regional Administrator

Enclosure:

(1) Meeting Summary

cc w/enclosure (1):

Mr. J. W. Baker, WNP-2 Plant Manager  
Mr. A. G. Hosler, WNP-2 Licensing Manager  
Mr. G. D. Bouchey, Director, Assurance & Licensing  
Mr. G. E. Doupe, Esq., WPPSS  
Mr. A. Lee Oxsen, Deputy Managing Director  
State of WA (Curtis Eschels)  
Mr. M. H. Philips, Esq.  
Winston & Strawn  
1400 L Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3502



MAY 16 1991

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bcc w/enclosure (1):

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R. Zimmerman, RV  
K. Perkins, RV  
B. Gallo, LOLB  
D. Kirsch, RV  
L. Miller, RV  
P. Johnson, RV  
T. Sundsmo, RV  
C. Sorenson, SRI  
P. Eng, NRR/PD5  
R. Cross, RV  
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bcc w/o enclosure (1):

M. Smith  
J. Zollicoffer  
N. Western

