



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555-0001

April 23, 1997

Mr. J. V. Parrish, Chief Executive Officer
Washington Public Power Supply System
3000 George Washington Way
P.O. Box 968, MD 1023
Richland, WA 99352

SUBJECT: NRC INTEGRATED CORRECTIVE ACTIONS INSPECTION 50-397/96-202

Dear Mr. Parrish:

During the period from January 28 through February 6, 1997, The Special Inspection Branch of the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation (NRR) conducted an inspection of the corrective action program at Washington Nuclear Project 2 (WNP-2). The enclosed report presents the results of that inspection.

The inspection found the problem identification process generally effective. Tracking of issues and trending problems using cause codes are strengths and help to identify adverse trends.

The inspection found that deficient root cause analyses and corrective actions were contributing factors to recurrence of events. Your corrective action process is effective in evaluating and correcting immediate equipment problems and resolving significant issues, but not in evaluating and correcting causes of problems. This was reflected in our review of root cause analyses, although some root cause analyses were comprehensive and appropriate in depth.

Corrective actions were sometimes limited to individual problems and not applied to related equipment or human performance issues. Your 1995 and 1996 performance self-assessments identified human performance issues as an important contributor to unexpected events. The cause of this general issue has not been identified and corrected. We recognize that you have invested considerable resources in such initiatives as the Business Plan, the Peer Review Process, the Corrective Action Review Board, "Timeouts," and other initiatives to improve human performance.

No response to this letter is required. The NRC Region IV staff will issue any enforcement actions that may result from this inspection.

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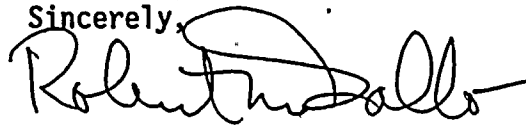
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Mr. J. V. Parrish

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790, a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, please contact me at (301) 415-2967.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Gallo, Chief
Special Inspection Branch
Division of Inspection and Support Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-397

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-397/96-202

cc: See next page.

Mr. J. V. Parrish

-2-

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Sincerely,

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY

Robert M. Gallo, Chief
Special Inspection Branch
Division of Inspection and Support Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-397

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Mr. J. V. Parrish

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In accordance with 10 CFR 2.790, a copy of this letter and its enclosures will be placed in the NRC Public Document Room (PDR). Should you have any questions concerning this inspection, please contact Thomas Foley at (301) 415-1036.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Gallo, Chief
Special Inspection Branch
Division of Inspection and Support Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket No.: 50-397

Enclosure: Inspection Report 50-397/96-202

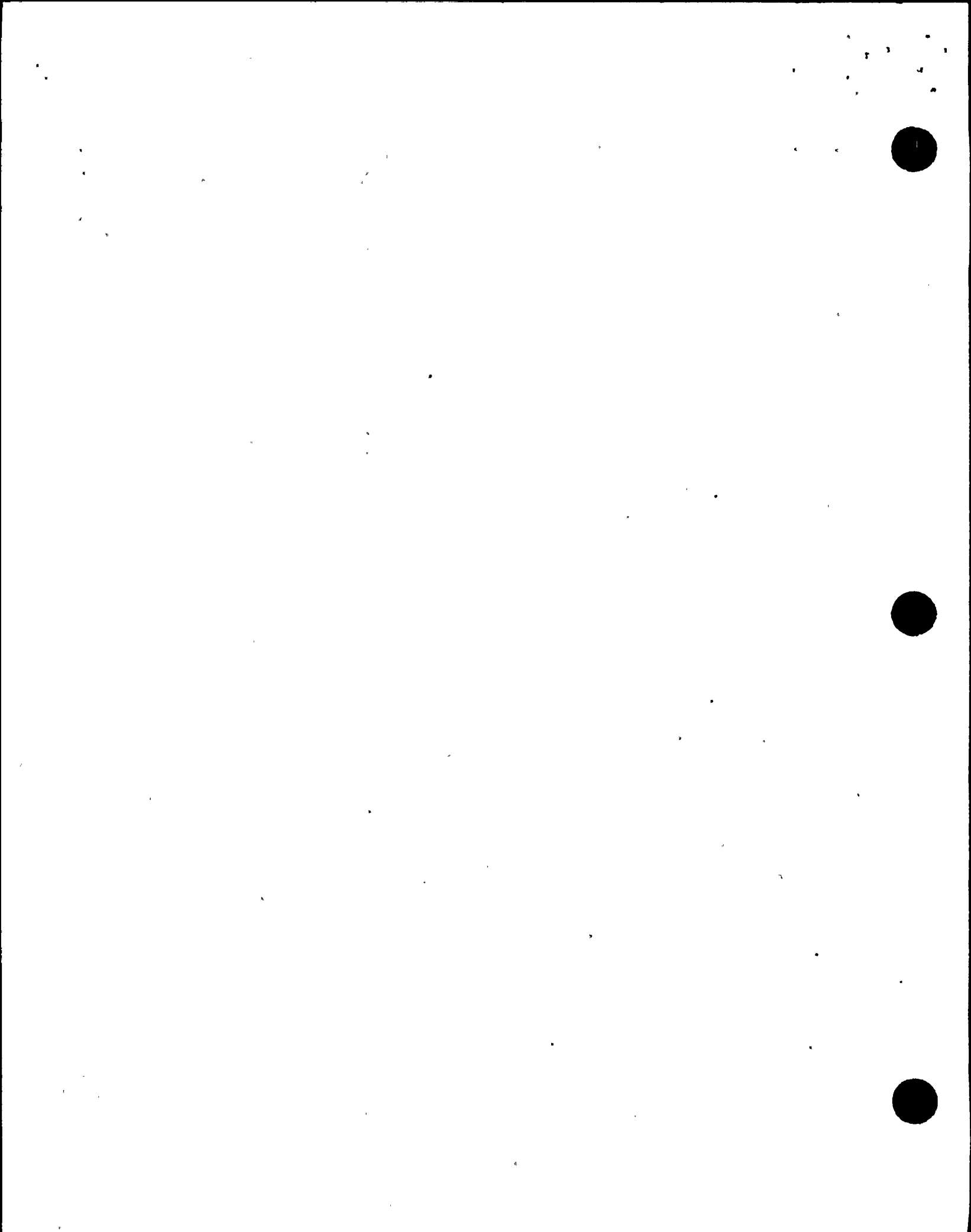
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J. V. Parrish

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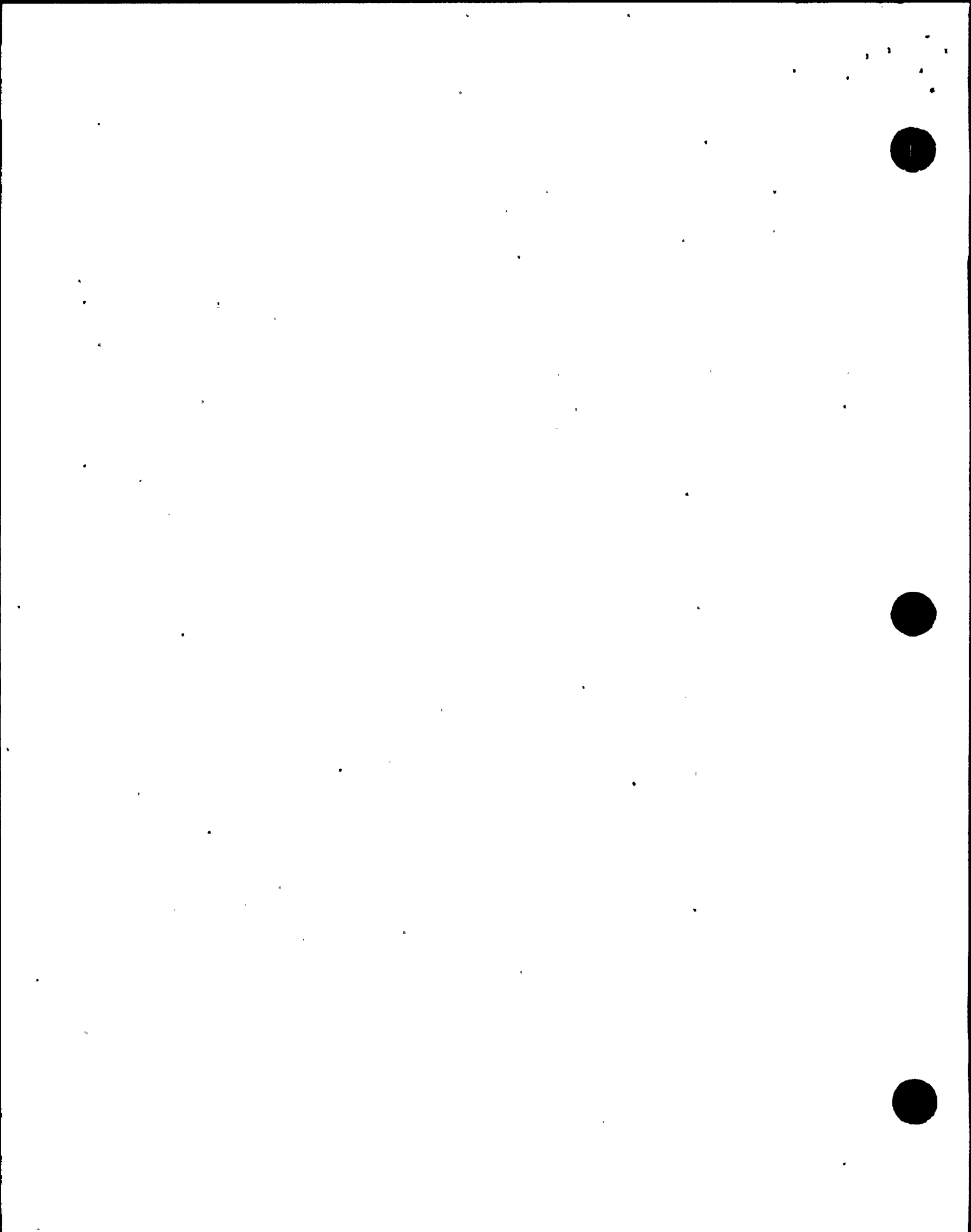
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