



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

July 15, 1999

See Rpt.

Mr. Robert P. Powers
Senior Vice President
Nuclear Generation Group
Indiana Michigan Power Company
500 Circle Drive
Buchanan, MI 49107-1395

SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF THE MARCH 24, 1999, EXTERNAL 0350 RESTART PANEL MEETING TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF DONALD C. COOK NUCLEAR PLANT RESTART ACTIVITIES

Dear Mr. Powers:

On March 24, 1999, staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) held a public meeting at the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant (DC Cook), in accordance with the NRC's Inspection Manual Chapter 0350 associated with the restart of D. C. Cook Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2. A list of attendees is provided as Enclosure 1. Formal presentations were made by the licensee. A copy of the slides used by the licensee is provided as Enclosure 2.

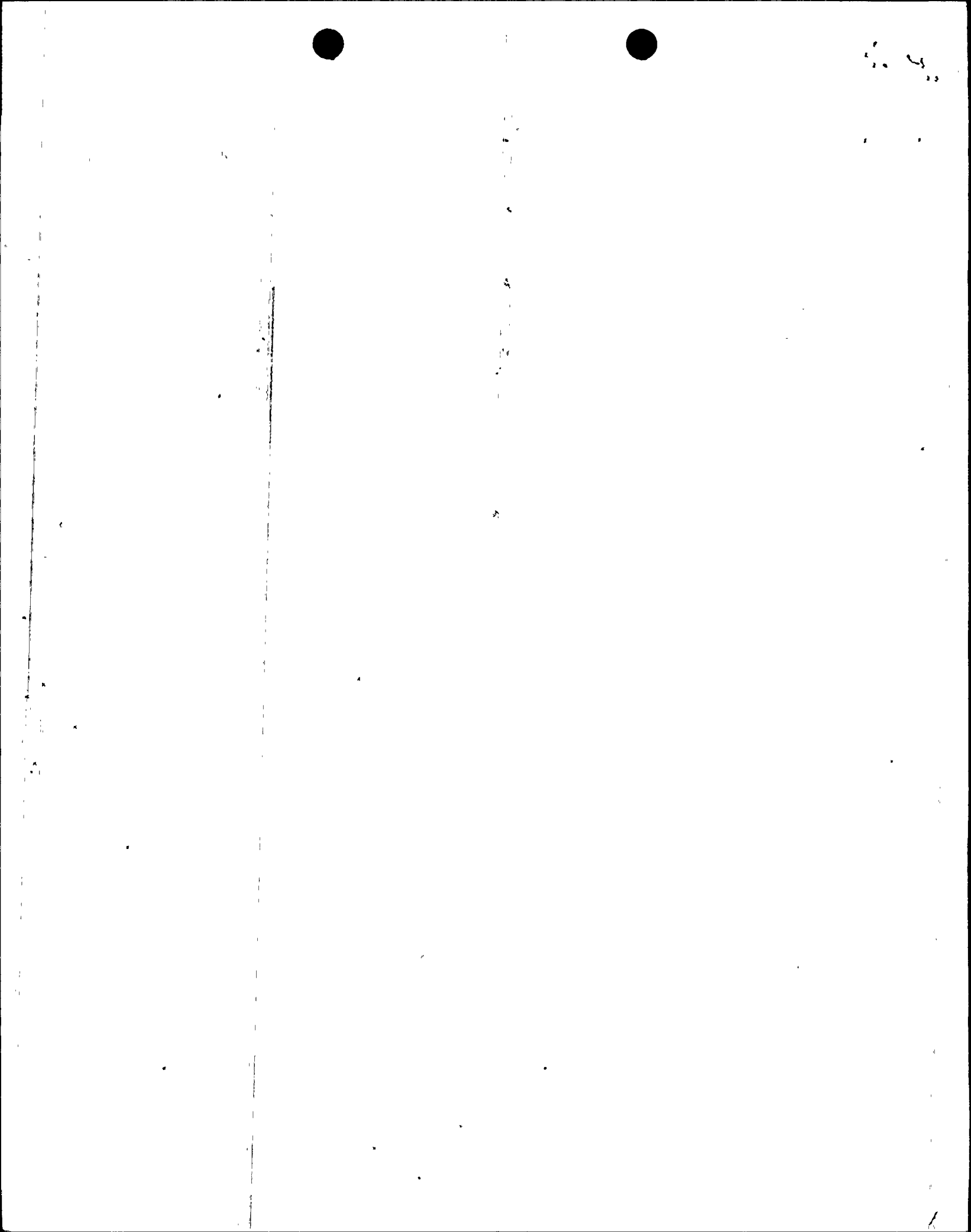
The public 0350 meetings with the licensee and NRC staff are held to discuss with the licensee progress toward satisfactory completion of the re-start program. Members of the NRC staff comprising the 0350 restart panel and high-level management from the licensee participated in the meeting.

The licensee presentations outlined restart activities for D. C. Cook. At the last meeting, the licensee was only one day into the Expanded System Readiness Reviews (ESRR). Mr. Mike Rencheck, Vice President of Nuclear Engineering, discussed key changes to the restart plan found in revision 5 to the Restart Plan, which was completed in early March. Mr. Rencheck discussed the sequenced steps to restart including discovery, implementation, verification, and restart. The licensee plans to publish the restart schedule on June 1, 1999. Mr. Rencheck discussed the status of programmatic and functional area reviews. He explained that the licensee is currently two weeks behind the ESSR schedule because the reviews are focusing on quality and not schedule. A sampling of discovery issues identified by the licensee staff was also discussed. NRC staff emphasized the importance of implementation versus planning. NRC inspections of the licensee's discovery phase and of performance assurance (PA) were scheduled to begin on March 29. The second oversight inspection is scheduled for April 12.

Mr. Paul Barrett, Director of Performance Assurance, discussed PA oversight efforts. PA is performing four independent vertical assessments. PA discussed results of work completed on the ESRR procedure review, training review, ESRR walkdowns, and the attribute matrix and System Readiness Review Board and provided conclusions that these areas were performing satisfactorily to date.

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Mr. Dave Kunsemiller, Director of Regulatory Affairs, discussed upcoming licensing actions that will be submitted to the NRC. Mr. Kunsemiller assured NRC staff that the licensee will provide issues to the NRC as soon as they become available. NRC staff stated that the licensee should provide technically sound and comprehensive license amendments. The NRC staff also stated that in developing the restart schedule, the licensee should factor in the time the NRC needs to complete licensing actions and provide early and frequent communications with the NRC.

The licensee concluded its presentation by emphasizing its commitment to quality and substance. The management recognizes that the change is not complete and that progress must be sustainable. The restart plan provides a design for this change but the challenge is to get each employee to invest in this change in order to keep it sustainable.

NRC staff concluded by stating that the licensee has made progress and has shown a great deal of energy in its efforts to bring the plant up to industry standards. The NRC will use discretion regarding the dispositioning of the forty-four reportable violations identified in recent inspections, as long as these issues are addressed in the plant's corrective action plan.

Sincerely,

Original signed by:

John F. Stang, Senior Project Manager, Section 1
Project Directorate III
Division of Licensing Project Management
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-315, 50-316
License Nos. DPR-58, DPR-74

Enclosures: As stated

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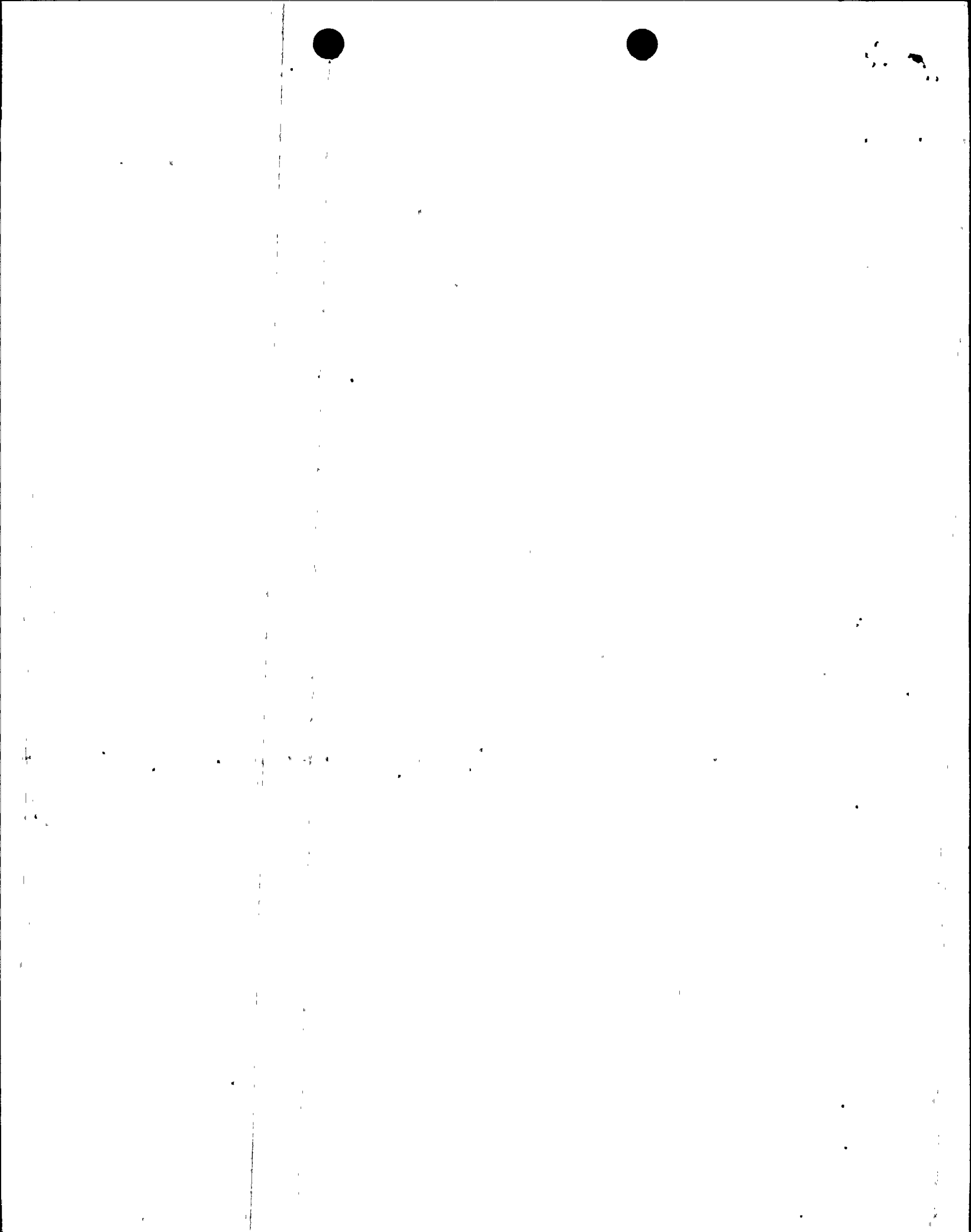
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Robert P. Powers

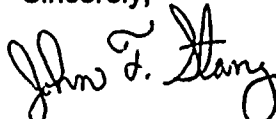
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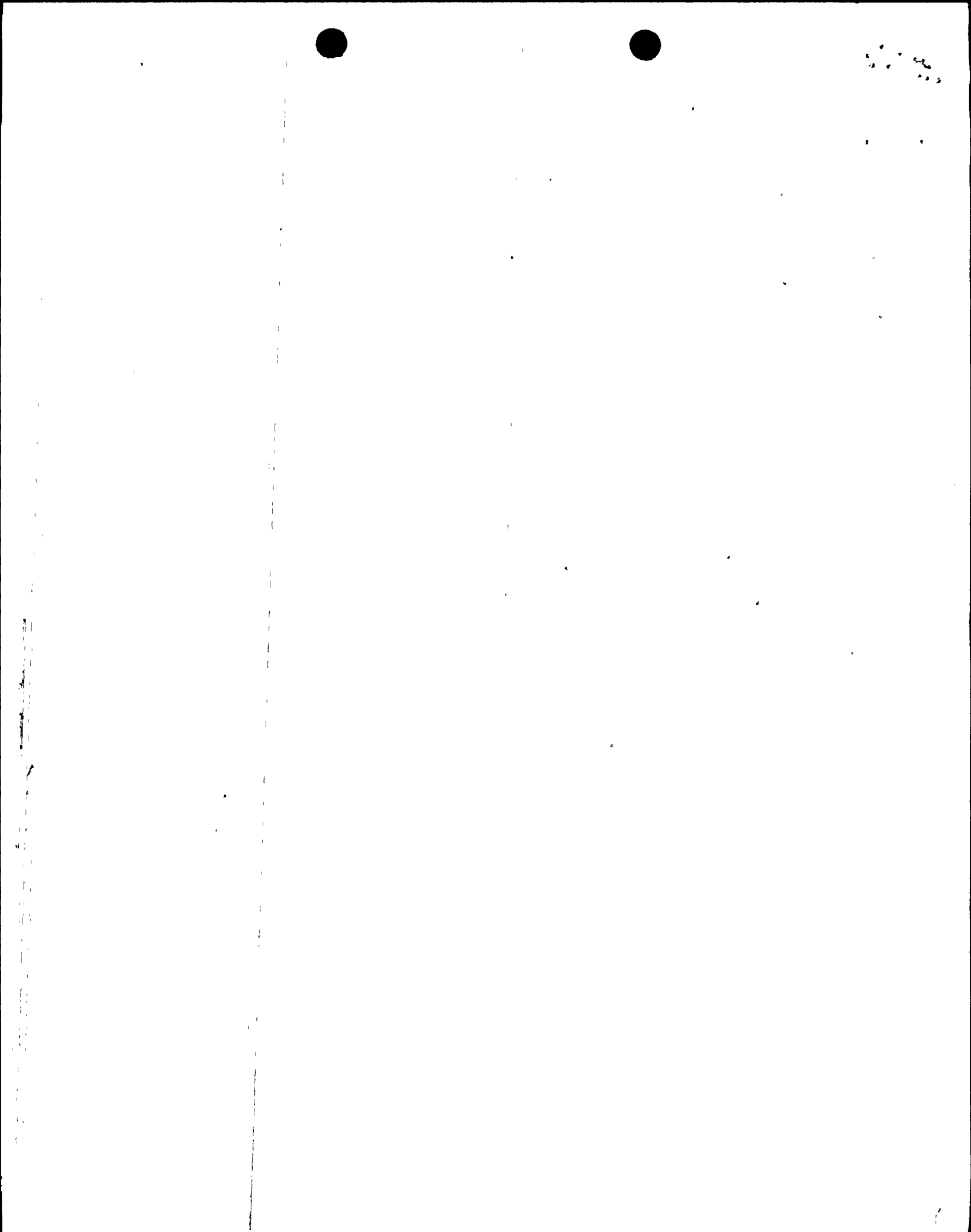
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Robert P. Powers
Indiana Michigan Power Company

Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant
Units 1 and 2

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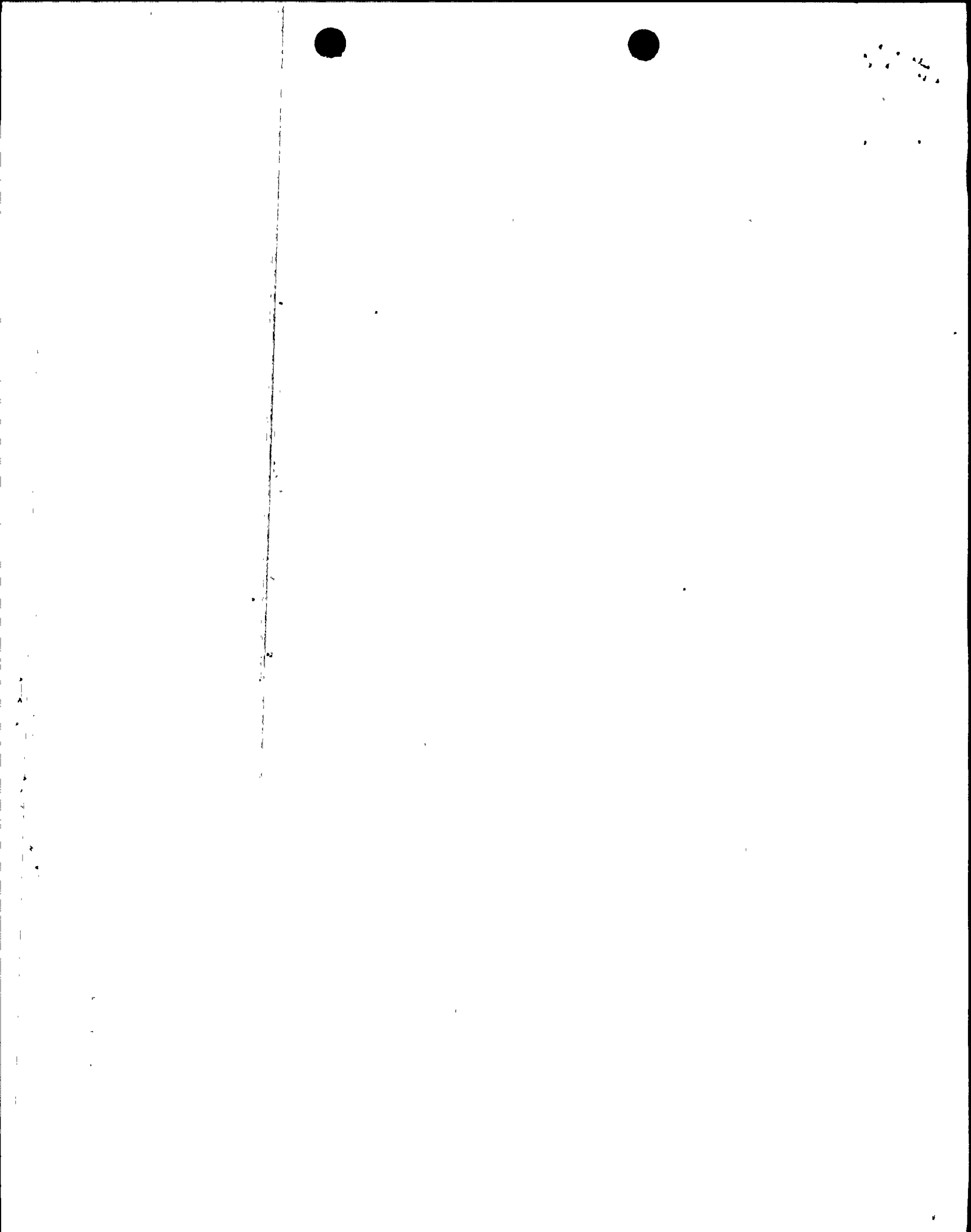
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**SUMMARY OF 3/24/99 0350 RESTART PANEL MEETING ON D.C. COOK RESTART
ACTIVITIES**

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