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MEMORANDUM FOR: V. Stello, Director
Office of Inspection and Enforcement

FROM: R. J. Mattson, Director
Division of Systems Safety, NRR

SUBJECT: HPI PUMP PERFORMANCE DURING THE TMI ACCIDENT

Based on our understanding of the results of the investigation of the TMI accident currently available, many of the significant system and equipment performance questions have been identified and work on their generic implications is underway. However, the cause of the malfunctioning of the High Pressure Injection System pumps during the accident at TMI has not been sufficiently characterized at this time. There appears to be conflicting information as to whether the frequent tripping of the HPI pumps and alleged difficulty in their restarting was an operator problem or a design (mechanical, electrical, and controls) problem.

The Lessons Learned Task Force requests that the investigation of the cause of the frequent tripping of these pumps during the first sixteen hours of the accident be given a higher priority in order that any significant generic implications for reactor safety be quickly identified.

Original signed by
Roger J. Mattson

Roger J. Mattson, Director
Division of Systems Safety
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