



UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
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JUN 16 1979

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as appropriate
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Roger J. Mattson, Director, Division of Systems Safety,
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

FROM: Norman C. Moseley, Director, Division of Reactor Operations
Inspection, Office of Inspection and Enforcement

SUBJECT: HPI PUMP PERFORMANCE DURING THE TMI ACCIDENT

This is an interim response to your June 20, 1979 memorandum to V. Stello, subject above. Additional information will be supplied later.

At the present time, manual starting difficulty for pump 1A appears to be caused by "contact bounce." The manual starting switch has a pistol grip handle which is twisted or rotated to actuate the contacts. Computer print-outs indicate on some occasions the occurrence of a series of open and close cycles of a few milliseconds duration. Since the operator could not have operated the switch this fast, it is assumed that some vibration mechanism was the cause (contact bounce). We know that some field modifications had been made on these switches. We are now following up on what was done, how evaluated, by whom, testing, quality considerations, etc. Since this seems to be related to manual starting, and failures have not been reported in surveillance testing, it probably would not affect auto starting (Safety Injection); however, this has not yet been ruled out.

The investigation report will attribute most of the pump trips to operator action.

Norman C. Moseley
Director
Division of Reactor
Operations Inspection
Office of Inspection
and Enforcement

cc: J. M. Allan, RI
R. D. Martin, RII

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