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MEMORANDUM FOR: Carlyle Michelson, Director
Office for Analysis and Evaluation
of Operational Data

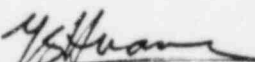
FROM: Y. S. Huang, Mechanical Engineer
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SUBJECT: WATER HAMMER

An evaluation was performed of the potential for water hammer during the restart of RHR pumps for BWR nuclear plants. The result of this evaluation was documented in the enclosed draft report.

A question was raised concerning the safety significance of water hammer events in the operation of a nuclear plant. The level of significance depends largely on how high the water hammer forces can develop in a particular event. There seems no easy answer to the question unless a method or criteria can be established to predict the water hammer forces. Until then, one can only be emphasizing the prevention of water hammer events by proper system designs and operating procedures.

Whether the enclosed report should be issued in its final form remains to be answered by a further consideration. Nevertheless, there is much useful information in the report that would help reduce the likelihood of water hammer events. It is recommended that the draft report be distributed in a limited manner to whom it may be of interest.


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Enclosure:
As Stated

cc w/enclosure:
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