



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**National Highway
Traffic Safety
Administration**

ODI RESUME

INVESTIGATION: PE02-005
 DATE OPENED: 1-18-02 DATE CLOSED: 4-15-02
 SUBJECT: Headlamps Dim/Flicker
 PROMPTED BY: IE02-002
 PRINCIPAL ENGINEER: Peter Kivett

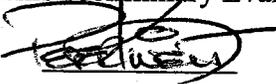
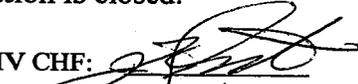
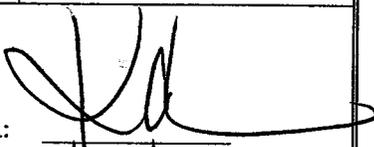
MANUFACTURER: General Motors Corporation
 MODEL(S): Oldsmobile Intrigue
 MODEL YEAR(S): 1999 - 2001
 VEHICLE POPULATION: 199,316

PROBLEM DESCRIPTION: Headlamps may dim or flicker.

FAILURE REPORT SUMMARY

	ODI	MANUFACTURER	TOTAL
COMPLAINTS:	26	481	507
CRASHES:	0	0	0
# INJURIES:	0	0	0
# FATALS	0	0	0

ACTION: This Preliminary Evaluation is closed.

ENGINEER:  DIV CHF:  OFC DIR: 

DATE: 4-12-02 DATE: 4/15/02 DATE: 4/15/02

SUMMARY: This Preliminary Evaluation was opened January 18, 2001 to investigate headlamps that allegedly dim for up to 10 seconds per incident, or flicker. An ODI investigator spoke with several complainants concerning their alleged headlamp failure and in each incident their headlamps never completely went out.

The headlamp dimming condition is caused by a drop in voltage from the battery effected by a momentary loss of the generator while the voltage regulator resets. The condition is related to the type of engine, engine speed and ambient temperature. The voltage regulator resets, causing the headlamps to momentarily operate at battery voltage typically 1.5 to 2 volts lower than the generator output voltage.

Based on ODI's consumer interviews, analysis of the failure mode and the absence of any crashes or injuries a safety-related defect trend has not been identified at this time. Accordingly, this investigation is closed. The closing of this investigation does not constitute a finding by NHTSA that no safety-related defect exists. The agency will take further action if warranted by the circumstances.

Handwritten: VLS
4-15-02