

LOG OF MEETING

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

No. Mfrs/Pr

Product Identified

Exempted by

Firms Notified

Comments Processed

6/17/96

REVISED
0273

DATE: July 18, 1995

Place: GE, Roper Corporation, Lafayette, GA

Attendees:

CPSC:

Linda Smith, EHHA

Chuck Smith, EC

Mai Ngo, ESEE

NIST: Rik Johnsson, NIST

GE/Roper:

Scott Ossewaarde, President, Roper Corp.

Donald Gregg, Manager Roper Corp. Design Engineering

Dean Boyce, Manager, Quality Assurance

Martin Vink, Senior Consulting Engineer

Yoolanda Salyer, Product Safety Program Manager

Ed McInerney, Chief Eng., GE Appliances

AHAM: Wayne Morris

The meeting was requested by CPSC to acquaint staff with issues related to research, design, and production of ranges. Scott Ossewaarde presented information about the factory. GE acquired Roper in 1988. The plant was built in 1973. They run several assembly lines. A fraction of total production units are exported.

Don Gregg described their design engineering process. His group includes design engineers, designers, model makers, and a home economist. Their new ideas come from several sources including GE central research and suppliers trying to sell their wares. Decisions to fund and start development are made by GE Appliances management. Field testing of modifications by consumers are done after appropriate, voluntary certification agency approval. Their human factors people are based in Louisville, KY. Their product evaluation process does include focus groups. In Lafayette, they observe consumers using the product one at a time. Major projects have a number of distinct phases in the development cycle.

Major projects/product changes could have multiple formal safety reviews throughout the development cycle. Safety-related issues from consumers, service people, and others are monitored. Product literature is produced in English and other languages, as appropriate. It is included in the safety review process.

A plant tour followed, including general production, quality assurance testing, abnormal testing, evaluation of modifications, and their test kitchens. They upgraded their combustion laboratory two years ago with new equipment and people. They are now capable of performing much of the work that NIST is doing for the Range Fire Project.

