

(2) *2/2/96*

MEETING LOG
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Industry Activities to Address Water Heater
Ignition of Flammable Vapors

PLACE: Oak Brook Marriott Hotel, Chicago, IL

MEETING DATE: November 9-10, 1995

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Donald W. Switzer *DWS*

ENTRY DATE: November 21, 1995

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Donald W. Switzer ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

See attached attendance sheet

MEETING SUMMARY

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Flammable Vapor Ignition was formed by the Gas Research Institute (GRI) to provide technical oversight of the development of a test methodology to screen water heater resistance to igniting flammable vapors. The methodology will be provided to the ANSI Z21 water heater subcommittee and others for use in developing a standard test method for flammable vapor ignition resistance. The TAG consists of a number of experts representing the gas-fired water heater manufacturing industry, the natural gas utilities, GRI's Research and Development staff, and the CPSC. The methodology is being developed by Arthur D. Little, Inc., (ADL) under contract to GRI.

The purpose of this meeting was to provide the TAG with an opportunity for technical review and comment on the approach ADL has suggested for the test methodology. ADL has completed construction of the test facility has done preliminary testing to confirm the adequacy of the technical approach being used to evaluate vapor ignition resistance of new technology water heaters. The next step in the test method development is to verify that water heaters known not to cause ignition in a gasoline spill do not cause ignition in the test facility. In order to perform this verification, prototypes of ignition resistant water heaters will be supplied from the manufacturers when they are available. The prototype testing to date has been limited due to the unavailability of new technology water heaters. However, preliminary testing with one candidate indicates that the approach being taken will most likely be

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successful.

After discussion, the consensus of the TAG was that a small amount of additional work must be done before the test method is forwarded to the voluntary standards groups. CPSC staff expects the methodology to be sent to the standards groups by early summer. The voluntary standard groups have the responsibility to develop the actual standard provisions. Once they receive the technical input from ADL they will review it, modify it as needed, request additional work if needed, and develop the standards provisions.

Staff believes that progress is satisfactory at this time.

alpha by last name

Meeting:

Flammable Vapor TAG
Oak Brook Marriott
1401 West 22nd Street
Oak Brook, IL 60521
11/09/1995 to 11/10/1995

Ms. Karen Benedek
Principal Investigator
Arthur D. Little, Inc.
20 Acorn Park
Cambridge, MA 02140-2390

Mr. Robert J. Newhill
Principal Product Manager, Residential/Commercial
Products
Gas Research Institute
8600 West Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631-3562

Mr. Craig Christensen
Coordinator Technical Services
Mountain Fuel Supply Company
1140 West 2nd Street
P.O. Box 45360 DN013
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-3607

Mr. Daryl L. Hosler
Codes and Standards Manager
Southern California Gas Company
P.O. Box 3249 ML 25HO
Los Angeles, CA 90051-1249

Mr. Tony Demases
Coordinator, Product Development
Lone Star Gas Company
800 East Border Street
Arlington, TX 76010

Mr. Kenneth C. Kasmer
Group Manager, Space Conditioning & Appliances
Gas Research Institute
8600 West Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631-3562

Mr. Douglas W. DeWerth
Consultant
A.G.A. Laboratories
8501 East Pleasant Valley Road
Cleveland, OH 44131-5575

Mr. Larry Kidd
Bradford-White Corporation
200 Lafayette Street
Middleville, MI 49333-0247

Mr. Wilbur L. Haag Jr.
Application Engineer
A. O. Smith Water Products Company
Highway 1 North, P.O. Box 600
McBee, SC 29101-0600

Mr. Jack P. Langmead
Consultant
2513 Fauquier Lane
Reston, VA 22091

Mr. Jacob H. Hall
Senior Project Engineer
Rheem Manufacturing Company
2600 Gunter Park Drive East
Montgomery, AL 36109-1417

Mr. Eric M. Lannes
Vice President, Engineering
Bradford-White Corporation
200 Lafayette Street
Middleville, MI 49333-0247

Mr. William T. Harrigill
Vice President, Product Development
and Research Engineering
Rheem Manufacturing Company
2600 Gunter Park Drive East
Montgomery, AL 36109-1417

Mr. Henry Jack Moore Jr.
Vice President, Engineering
American Water Heater Group
1100 East Fairview Avenue, P.O. Box 1378
Johnson City, TN 37605-1378

Mr. Peter Pescatore
Engineer
Arthur D. Little, Inc.
20 Acorn Park
Cambridge, MA 02140-2328

Mr. Richard F. Topping
Vice President, Technology and Product
Development
Arthur D. Little, Inc.
20 Acorn Park
Cambridge, MA 02140-2390

Mr. Martin P. Petchul
Manager, Codes and Standards
Columbia Gas Distribution Companies
200 Civic Center Drive
Columbus, OH 43216

Mr. Larry L. Westling
Director, Building Codes and Ordinances
Customer Equipment Services
Northwest Natural Gas Company
One Pacific Square, 220 N.W. Second Avenue
Portland, OR 97209-3991

Dr. Gerald D. Pine
Principal Product Manager, Market Evaluation
Gas Research Institute
8600 West Bryn Mawr Avenue
Chicago, IL 60631-3562

Mr. James A. Ranfone
Director, Codes, Standards and Technical
Support, Marketing Services Group
American Gas Association
1515 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, VA 22209-2402

Mr. Drew Smith
Vice President, Product Development & Research
State Industries, Inc.
500 Bypass Road
Ashland City, TN 37015-1299

Mr. Frank A. Stanonik
Director of Technical Services
Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association
P.O. Box 9245
Arlington, VA 22219-1245

Mr. William J. Thomaston
Director, Technical Assistance, Marketing
Alabama Gas Corporation
2101 Sixth Avenue North
Birmingham, AL 35203-2749