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LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Carbon Monoxide Detectors

DATE OF MEETING: March 9, 1995

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Elizabeth W. Leland, EC *[initials]*

LOCATION: CPSC, East-West Towers, Bethesda, Maryland

CPSC ATTENDEE: Kate Premo, EXPA (portion)
Larry Hershman, CACA (portion)
Elizabeth W. Leland (portion)

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: Lorraine C. Backer, National Center for
Environmental Health
Irwin H. Billick, Gas Research Institute
Elissa Feldman, Environmental Protection
Agency
Katherine Hanemann, Consumer Federation of
America
J.W.Lansdowne, Piedmont National Gas Company
Leyla Erk McCurdy, American Lung Association
Kerry Perkins, National Safe Kids Campaign
James A. Ranfone, American Gas Association
Bill Smith, American Sensors, Inc.
Nancy Harvey Steorts, Nancy Harvey Steorts
International, Inc.
Julie H. Stewart, American Gas Association
Susan Strong, Nighthawk Industries

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Minutes for the meeting were provided by the Task Force and are attached.

[Signature]

ATTN
ELIZABETH (BEANS)

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TODD

3 PGS.

MINUTES - To Meeting March 9, 1995

Bill

To: All Task Force 3 (Consumer and Professional Education) Members
From: Bill Smith
Date: March 28, 1995

Task Force 3 (Consumer and Professional Education) met on Thursday, March 9, 1995 at the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission in Bethesda, Maryland.

- Attendees:**
- Bill Smith - American Sensors
 - Susan Strong - Nighthawk Industries
 - Julie H. Stewart - American Gas Association
 - Nancy Harvey Steorts - Nancy Harvey Steorts International
 - Elissa Feldman - Environmental Protection Agency
 - J.W. Lansdowne - Piedmont National Gas Company
 - Kerry Perkins - National Safe Kids Campaign
 - Katherine Hanemann - Consumer Federation of America
 - Irwin H. Billick - Gas Research Institute
 - James A. Ranfone - American Gas Association
 - Lorraine C. Backer - National Center for Environmental Health
 - Leyla Erk McCurdy - American Lung Association
 - Kate Premo - Consumer Product Safety Commission

Jim Ranfone, AGA served as Interim Chair and opened the meeting
Bill Smith, representing American Sensors, stated that he was replacing David Fergusson.

The First Order of Business was the nomination and election of Chair and Secretary. Bill Smith of American Sensors, was elected as Chairman and Nancy Harvey Steorts of Nancy Harvey Steorts International acted as Secretary.

It was recommended that Mary Ellen Fise of the Consumer Federation of America be selected as a public member.

The CPSC, the EPA and the American Lung Association advised the group of their efforts on Carbon Monoxide.

It was recommended that there be a clearing house of all indoor air quality information relating to Carbon Monoxide. The Office of Public Affairs at the US CPSC stated that they would be glad to collect this information and would also solicit information from other groups not present. The first action of Task Force would be to build a library for this information.

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There was concern expressed by one member about scare tactics being used regarding the CO issue. This member felt that all sources should be emphasized including Carbon Monoxide coming from auto emissions.

It was suggested that a list of all manufacturers who have UL Listings be made available.

The American Gas Association said that they work on education through their individual members. Some utility companies service Carbon Monoxide problems – some do not.

It was noted that Carbon Monoxide is a fossil fuel issue and not just a gas issue.

It was also pointed out that government data is being relied on for statistical information on the CO issue.

After the data is gathered, the consumer must be educated. In addition, reliable information must be given to emergency response teams, utilities, health care officials and other relevant parties.

To avoid overlap information, it is important that all task forces coordinate their information. It was suggested that there be a plenary session at the April 24 meeting, so that the Chairmen of all the task forces could give an over-all report to the assembly at large.

It was suggested that the transportation industry be involved – the EPA will contact the appropriate representatives.

The library materials on Carbon Monoxide should include:

manufacturers education, videos on appropriate emergency responses, fire department presentations, government agency information, service organization information, state and local information, information from health care professionals, physician education materials and information on the elderly from all sources including AARP.

It was suggested that there be a targeted communication plan for each targeted audience.

The role of the Consumer and Professional Education Committee is to agree to the facts on Carbon monoxide and then recommend their use in a way that is most effective.

The American Medical Association should be included as a member of this committee.

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Bill Smith will contact the other task forces so that all information and communication can be coordinated.

The EPA Office of Indoor Air Quality will run a literature search on Carbon Monoxide.

There was considerable discussion on the final changes in the Underwriters Laboratory Standards.

The new features of the standard include:

- revised labeling of the package and product by June 1, 1995
- a reset button on the alarm by October 1, 1995
- an increase of the "low level" sensitivity from the current 15 ppms for 8 hours to 15 ppms for 30 days.

There was significant discussion about Carbon Monoxide detectors as a safety device and/or a health monitoring device.

There was great concern expressed that some products which do not meet the amended UL standard may be allowed to be sold in the marketplace after October 1, 1995 leading to response confusion.

There was concern voiced about Carbon Monoxide detectors that sound an alarm at a very low level, thereby causing concern about problems such as appliances being red-tagged or shut-off when levels of carbon monoxide are only slightly elevated from ambient.

It was suggested that the Carbon Monoxide alarm be more consumer friendly and that it not go into a full alarm at a low-level or, as it has also been described, at a nuisance level.

It was suggested that the focus for education be on prevention of Carbon Monoxide emissions.

Elizabeth Leland and Larry Hirshman were invited to give the task force an update on present CPSC activities as related to Carbon Monoxide. They stated that all investigations are still open and that the CPSC is corresponding with different companies but that there was no determination whether there was a defect or a hazard. They said no decisions had been made. Section 15 information is not releasable but is open and on-going.

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Their timeline is to get through the information as quickly as possible. They are addressing the false alarm issue.

The FTC is looking at claims on the products.

It was suggested that there be an official commission briefing to update the Commissioners on the present status of Carbon Monoxide detectors.

A discussion followed with an explanation of the different technologies used for Carbon Monoxide detection. This included comments on gel-cell and semi-conductor technology.

Bill Smith will advise all Task Force Members of the next meeting date.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at approximately 2:30PM.