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A 11/10/94

LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE OF LABORATORY SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Home Electrical System Fires Project, Task Group on Wiring Methods for Rehabilitation Work

DATE OF MEETING: October 12, 1994

PLACE OF MEETING: East-West Towers, Room 410A

DATE OF ENTRY: October 13, 1994

SOURCE OF ENTRY: Larry Moskowitz, LSEL

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Robert L. Northedge, ESEE
William H. King, Jr. ESEE
Larry J. Moskowitz, LSEL
Dale Ray, ECPA (Part Time)
Charles Smith, ECPA (Part Time)

George Sweet, EPHF
Dennis McCoskrie, ESEE
Edward Krawiec, ESEE

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Steven Scully, NAHB Research Center
Robert Dunigan, NAED
Pastor Farinas, MRF
Joe Wiehagen, NAHB Research Center
Dave Dini, Underwriters Laboratories
Terry Macalady, Cooper Industries
John Widener, IBEW - Electrical Workers
Jack Wells, Pass & Seymore/ Legrand

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Mr. King opened the meeting by introducing Robert Northedge as the new project manager for the Home Electrical Systems Fires Project. Mr. King will resume his duties as Director of the Division of Electrical Engineering. This was a meeting of the task group on Wiring Methods for Rehabilitation Work. Its membership is concerned with improving home wiring safety. Two of the three contracts awarded under the Home Electrical Systems Fires Project, Home Wiring Costs - awarded July 15, 1994 - and Home Wiring Demonstration - awarded September 28, 1994 - were discussed. Both contracts were awarded to the NAHB Research Center. The Home Wiring Cost Contract will seek cost effective solutions to 13 problems typically found in homes 40 years old and older. The Home Wiring Demonstration contract will first select a residential dwelling which contains as many of the 13 problems as possible. This home will be repaired using the solutions developed by the Home Wiring Repair Cost Contract. "Before" and "after" examples, as well as action recording of electricians making repairs, will be video-taped. The residential dwelling will be located in the

Washington, D.C. area. The Home Wiring Demonstration Contract has three options. Option #1 - a homewiring rehabilitation and video in the Southwest, option #2 - a homewiring rehabilitation and video in the Southeast and option #3 - a homewiring rehabilitation and video in the Northwest or Central region. Presently, the rehabilitation for the D.C. area, the basic, and option #1 are funded.

Mr. Northedge mentioned that discussions have been initiated with Fannie Mae in an effort to secure additional funding for the project. Fannie Mae is prohibited in its charter from giving money directly to the Federal government, but they can provide grants to nonprofit organizations. NAHB is a nonprofit organization.

Efforts have also been initiated by Mr. Northedge to discuss the Home Wiring program with the insurance industry and the electrical utility regulatory industry. Contact has been made with ITT Hartford and the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners.

Steve Scully, a senior engineer from NAHB, then described NAHB's progress on both contracts. They have developed solutions to the 13 typical problems found in homes 40 years old and older. In developing these solutions, they assumed any repair that they make to a home will comply with the National Electrical Code, but there will not be an effort to comply completely with the National Electrical Code. For example, if for safety reasons three receptacles need to be added to a room, but the NEC requires five, only three will be added to the room. However, the three receptacles that will be added, will be installed per the NEC. Mr. Scully then reviewed the issues raised by each of the 13 problem topics.

Steve Scully mentioned that if NAHB could not find a house with all 13 problems listed in the Home Wiring Costs Contracts, they'd simulate some of the problems to ensure that all 13 problems would be addressed in the video that they will produce for the Home Wiring Demonstration contract.

A Peer Review meeting will be held on October 27, 1994 to review NAHB's project plan.

There was some discussion about showing the entire NFPA-73 inspection in the video tape. Mr. Scully responded that it was not called for in the contract. Mr. King replied that it was just a matter of introducing the home on the videotape. It would not require a lot of time to accomplish.