

12/12/94

MEETING LOG
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

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

PLACE: CPSC Headquarters

MEETING DATE: November 15, 1994

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Donald W. Switzer *DWS*

ENTRY DATE: November 15, 1994

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Donald W. Switzer	ES
William Rowe	EP
James Hoebel	ES
James E. Bradley	ES
William Menza	HS
Robert Franklin	EC
Ronald Jordan	ES
Tim Johnson	ES
Terry Kissinger	EP

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Robert Hemphill	Gas Research Institute
Richard Topping	Arthur D. Little, Inc.

MEETING SUMMARY

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss approaches to developing a standard test method to address the hazard posed by gas-fired water heaters igniting flammable vapors. Arthur D. Little had proposed a test method development approach based on developing a standard accident scenario and testing water heaters to those conditions. At a previous meeting CPSC staff expressed concern that this approach may not produce a test method that would protect against conditions that could be expected in the home.

At this meeting staff reiterated its concerns. Mr. Topping presented a new approach to develop the test method. Mr. Topping's new approach is to develop a method based on a worst case scenario. The proposed approach to address all anticipated ignition hazards. The new approach is more stringent than an alternative proposed by CPSC staff, and addresses staff's concerns. Industry is attempting to develop this approach to prevent **any** possibility of a water heater which passes the standard causing an ignition in the home. Staff supports this approach, but pointed out that if this approach is not successful, it may be necessary to develop a less stringent

standard which will greatly reduce the number of accidents.

Staff expressed its desire to participate fully in the process, and to share data and information with industry.