2/1/96

LOG OF MEETING

PLACE : East West Towers, Bethesda, MD

DATE : February 1, 1996

SUBJECT : Range/Oven Fire Project

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES :
Ed McInerney, General Electric
Rick Seib, Whirlpool Corp.
Wayne Morris, Assoc. of Home Appliance Manufacturers
Rik Johnsson, National Inst. of Standards & Technology
John Ottoson, U.S. Fire Admin. (phone)
Maureen Cislo, Product Safety Letter

CPSC ATTENDEES :
Linda Smith, EHHA
Andrew Stadnik, ES
Chuck Smith, EC
William King, ESEE
Mai Ngo, ESEE
William Rowe, EHHA
Carolyn Meiers, ESHF
Dennis Wilson, COMG
Ron Monticone, EHHA
James Hoebel, ES
Katie Potel, Public Affairs
Robert Frye, EHHA

SUMMARY : The meeting was requested by CPSC to brief the range manufacturers on current plans for the Range Fire Project and discuss outstanding technical issues.

Andrew Stadnik began the meeting with a presentation of the testing that is being planned at the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) for the range project this year. A large part of the discussion centered around the need to establish a window of operation between characteristics associated with normal cooking and characteristics associated with hazardous conditions. The cooking scenarios planned to be tested were discussed in this context. CPSC staff solicited AHAM comments on these scenarios and other scenarios not yet included. CPSC staff indicated that the amount of testing to be conducted will depend in some degree on the U.S. Fire Administration's decision on whether to contribute additional financial support to the project. Industry members indicated that they were concerned with the effects of thermal inertia and how success criteria for sensors will be defined. CPSC staff reiterated that the project's objective is to study the feasibility of the concept of a technological fix to reduce the number of cooking-related range fires. (It is not within the scope of the project

to attempt a solution to all the many important application issues that will arise as the search for a practical system proceeds.)

CPSC staff also discussed its desire to demonstrate the use of control logic to integrate sensor outputs and shut off the range. This work would be done at the CPSC laboratory but is not fully planned at this time. CPSC staff indicated that AHAM members will be given the opportunity to comment on the plans for this work as it progresses.

A number of other issues included in AHAM's December 20, 1996 letter to the staff were also discussed. These included a discussion of the range-related fire data, the extent to which information on potential sensing devices is available within the smoke detector industry, and project accomplishments to date. Staff indicated that a variety of sensing devices will be tested for their capability of sensing pre-fire cooking emissions during the Phase II testing. Smoke detectors, as currently designed, are not generally appropriate for use in kitchens because of the nuisance alarm issue. CPSC staff indicated that AHAM would receive a formal response to their letter in 1-2 weeks.

AHAM indicated that a letter will be coming to CPSC regarding their information and education program. They want to list CPSC among organizations that have consumer safety materials. They plan a workshop of public education specialists in Chicago on April 10, 1996, and would like CPSC participation.