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Meeting Log

Subject: Meeting with Professor George Tsongas, Portland State University concerning gas range testing done by Professor Tsongas

Meeting Date: April 22, 1996

Place of Meeting: CPSC, room 715

Date of Entry: April 24, 1996

Source of entry: Tim Johnson, ESEE

Commission Attendees:

Tim Johnson
Don Switzer
Elizabeth Leland
Lori Saltzman
Sandy Inkster
Andy Stadnik
among others

Non-Commission Attendees:

Professor George Tsongas

Staff Comment:

Staff is currently in a data collecting mode and has done no testing to verify any results presented. CPSC staff neither concurs or disagrees with the results presented by Professor Tsongas in this meeting.

Summary of Meeting:

Professor Tsongas gave approximately a 1 hour presentation that presented data from a field study, recently completed by Mr Tsongas. The study is titled: Field Monitoring of Elevated Carbon Monoxide Production from Residential Gas Ovens. The study has been published in the Proceedings of the ASHRAE IAQ '94 Conference held in St. Louis, Missouri, Oct 30-Nov 2, 1994. The study monitored CO levels produced by gas-fired ovens. Ovens from 60 small apartments were tested, with CO measurements taken both in the room and at the exhaust port of the oven. In addition, Professor Tsongas explained some current laboratory testing he is doing as well as possible future testing.

Major points made by Professor Tsongas were:

- A significant portion of gas-fired ovens tested produced CO levels greater than EPA suggested maximums.
- A significant portion of low income residents use ovens for heating their home.
- Proper adjustment/tuning of the ovens often resulted in a significant reduction in CO production.
- Main causes for poorly tuned ovens are: mis-adjustment of primary air shutter, secondary air openings blocked by foil, improper orifice size used (different orifice size needed depending on the gas used).
- There is little or no published literature on CO oven emissions.
- Most HVAC (heating/venting/air conditioning) personnel he has had contact with are not properly trained in oven maintenance. However, most are trained properly in maintaining other gas appliances.
- CO emissions from ovens needs to be looked at further.
- Professor Tsongas is pursuing funds for additional research. He is currently doing some laboratory testing with 1 range.