

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Electrical Section Meeting and the National Electrical Code Technical Committee Report Session.

DATE: May 22-25, 1995 **PLACE:** Colorado Convention Ctr.
Denver, CO.

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: June 9, 1995

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: William H. King, Jr., ESEE *W.H.K.*

CPSC PARTICIPANT: William H. King, Jr., ESEE

NON-CPSC PARTICIPANTS:

Earl Roberts, REPTEC
Mark Ode, NFPA
Philip Cox, Jr., IAEI
James Carpenter, N.C. Dept. of Insurance
Raymond Weber, State of Wisconsin
C. John Beck, Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
Melvin Anna
Dwight Durham, Southwire Company
Joel Rencsok, City of Phoenix
William Wusinich, IBEW
Frederic Hartwell, EC&M Magazine
Stanley Kahn, Heckler Electric Co., Inc.
Thomas Wood, Cecil B. Wood, Inc.
Charles Trout, Main Electric Co., Inc.
William O'Grady, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Donald Zipse, Zipse Electrical Engineering, Inc.
Thomas Krob, Clark County, NV Building Dept.
Richard Buschart
Edward Lawry
Dean Wilson, Industrial Risk Insurers
Robert Bernd, Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
Wayne Brinkmeyer, Biddle Electric Corp.
John Stricklin
Russell Helmick, Jr., City of Irvine, CA
Richard Licht, 3M Company
Donald Belles, Donald W. Belles & Assoc., Inc.
and NFPA members.

SUMMARY:

The Electrical Section of NFPA met Monday - Wednesday. Group discussions took place following presentations by each of the 20 code-making panel chairman of the National Electrical Code (NEC) Committee regarding significant changes proposed for the 1996 edition of the NEC. Several proposals were put forth for consideration as Electrical Section positions to be supported

when the new code came before the NFPA membership at the Technical Committee Report Session which began on Thursday. None of the proposals to the Electrical Section impacted any of the NEC revisions supported by the CPSC staff. CPSC staff had supported revisions affecting GFCI requirements for backyard boat hoists, heat tape protection, spas and hot tubs, and faster-acting circuit breakers.

The NFPA Technical Committee Report session to cover NFPA 70, the National Electrical Code, began on Thursday. The 1996 National Electrical Code was adopted by the NFPA membership at the session. The new code includes some safety improvements which will benefit consumer safety. The new edition also retains important provisions submitted and supported by CPSC in the past. One significant new safety improvement was a change in the code that will no longer permit the frames of ranges and clothes dryers to be grounded to the grounded (neutral) conductor of the branch circuit for new installations. This will necessitate a 4-wire hook-up instead of the 3-wire, 120/240 volt hook-up. This change will permit new concepts like whole-house GFCI protection without appliances like ranges or clothes dryers causing nuisance trips.

The 1996 NEC will not include two revisions submitted by the CPSC staff. Instead, further consideration of these proposed changes was delayed until the next code cycle. One of these issues is GFCI protection for electrically powered backyard boat hoists; the other is GFCI protection for the receptacle outlet intended for use with heat tape (pipe-heating cable).

Another issue of interest to CPSC was a proposal to require faster acting circuit breakers in residences. This was the proposal of the Electronic Industries Association. CPSC staff supported this proposal and provided written comments. Faster acting circuit breakers could prevent electrical fires in existing homes as a cost-effective safety step. This proposal was not accepted during this current cycle. The code-making panel indicated that there was insufficient evidence that a change was warranted at this time.