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23/10/95  
R. D. [unclear]

LOG OF MEETING

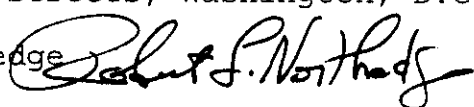
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

**SUBJECT:** Electricity Committee of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC)

**DATE OF MEETING:** February 27, 1995

**PLACE:** Hotel Washington, 15th & F Streets, Washington, D.C.

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Robert L. Northedge



**DATE OF ENTRY:** March 13, 1995

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:** Robert Northedge

**NON COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

<u>Federal Agencies:</u>	<u>Electricity Committee Members &amp; Others</u>
Barry Solomon, DOE	See Attached Attendance List
Sam Rousso, DOE	
Phil Overholt, DOE	
John Iaconis, GSA	
Kevin Kelly, FERC	

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

Mr. Northedge opened his discussion with the Electricity Committee members by explaining that since the Committee works with utility companies across the United States he wanted to share with the Committee a safety issue with electricity use in many older homes. Mr. Northedge explained that CPSC is looking for ideas to compliment the approach now underway to tackle the safety problem.

Mr. Northedge explained the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) project on Home Electrical Systems Fires. The project's main goal is to reduce electrical fires in homes by providing sufficient technical information to state jurisdictions so that local authorities can seek adoption of the NFPA 73 inspection code.

Mr. Northedge presented the background of the origin of NFPA 73. As result of fire investigation studies sponsored by CPSC and published in a 1987 CPSC report, Residential Electrical Distribution Fires, NFPA initiated development of the inspection code, NFPA 73. The report demonstrated the need to inspect and correct residential wiring hazards in existing homes in order to reduce deaths and injuries from electrical fires.

The report indicated that the age of the dwelling appeared to contribute to the likelihood that it would experience a fire. The rate of electrical wiring fires in dwellings over 40 years old was determined to be about 3 times that of dwellings 11 to 20 years old.

The following estimates for 1992 of fires, deaths, injuries and costs were provided:

- 41,000 electrical wiring fires in homes; the risk is highest in older homes
- 320 deaths
- 1630 injuries
- \$511 million in property loss
- \$2.2 billion total annual cost to society

Mr. Northedge showed the participants photographic slides of hazardous wiring conditions found in an older home in Prince Georges County, Maryland. Many of the wiring hazards depicted in the slides have been identified in the 1987 report as causes for fires.

One participant asked what it would cost to correct these problems. Mr. Northedge explained that CPSC had issued two contracts related to the subject. One to study the most cost effective ways to correct problems identified by an NFPA 73 inspection and one contract to demonstrate the correction process in several homes throughout the United States. The latter contract would include an half hour video that promotes use of the NFPA 73 inspection code and cost-effective repair techniques.

Mr. Northedge answered several other questions about the project and then departed the Committee's meeting.

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