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MEETING LOG
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

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

PLACE: Boston Marriot Newton, Newton, MA

MEETING DATE: June 12-13, 1995

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Donald W. Switzer *DWS*

ENTRY DATE: July 10, 1995

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Donald W. Switzer ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

See attached attendance sheet

MEETING SUMMARY

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Flammable Vapor Ignition was formed by the Gas Research Institute (GRI) to provide technical oversight of the development of a test methodology to screen water heater resistance to igniting flammable vapors. The methodology will be provided to the ANSI Z21 water heater subcommittee and others for use in developing a standard test method for flammable vapor ignition resistance. The TAG consists of a number of experts representing the gas-fired water heater manufacturing industry, the natural gas utilities, GRI's Research and Development staff, and the CPSC. The methodology is being developed by Arthur D. Little, Inc., (ADL) under contract to GRI.

The purpose of this meeting was to provide the TAG with an opportunity for technical review and comment on the approach ADL has suggested for the test methodology. ADL has completed construction of the test facility. The TAG was given a tour of the facility and an opportunity to offer comments on the facility design. Staff examined the equipment and found it to be well designed and constructed. One of the suggestions from the TAG was that the combustion air supply be modified to adhere to the combustion air requirements in the National Fuel Gas Code. That change has been made.

Shakedown testing is to begin soon. After the equipment has been verified to operate as designed, preliminary tests will begin with current design water heaters. When prototypes of new designs become available, they will be tested to verify the

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

No Mfrs/PrvtLbrs or Products Identified

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proposed test methodology. It was emphasized that GRI is not developing a standard, but rather a test methodology which will be made available to any standards-writing organization. As mentioned above it will be made available to the ANSI water heater subcommittee for adoption into the standard. The subcommittee may modify the test method after the GRI/ADL work is completed. Staff was asked if they had any concerns or questions as to the progress to date. Staff responded that progress to date is satisfactory, but that the final evaluation of progress will depend on results of testing prototypes.

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