

**Minutes**  
**Fog and Smoke Working Group**  
October 25, 1997  
Las Vegas, NV

Chairman: Larry Schoeneman, Interesting Products

Recording secretary: Karl G. Ruling

In attendance: Murray Gellatly, A.C. Lighting Ltd., Principal  
Brad Dittmer, Associated Theatrical Contractors, Principal  
George Sabbi, BASH Lighting Services (NJ), Observer  
Gary Crawford, CITC, Principal  
Gary Fails, City Theatrical, Inc., Principal  
F. Lee Iwanski, Four Star Lighting, Principal  
Mike Wood, High End Systems, Principal  
Adrian Segeren, Le Maitre Special Effects, Principal  
Tony Douglas-Beveridge, PLASA, Principal  
Jim Gill, Reel FX, Principal  
Eric Tishman, Rosco Laboratories, Principal  
Heinz Siller, RST Präsentationssysteme, Visitor  
Nathan Kahn, Theatre Effects, Inc., Principal  
Bill Hektner, USITT Health & Safety Commissioner, Principal  
Florian Von Hofen, VPLT, Principal

1 Opening remarks

The meeting was called to order by Larry Schoeneman at 7:07 p.m. Schoeneman urged the group to have an "expeditious" meeting.

2 Attendance and membership

2.1 Introductions of those present

The people present announced their names and company affiliations, moving around the table in a clockwise direction.

2.2 Determination of quorum (7 needed)

Larry Schoeneman announced that we had a quorum. Fourteen voting members were present.

2.3 Recognition of alternate voting members

There were none to recognize.

2.4 Requirements for membership

2.5 Processing of new membership applications

Eric Tishman moved, Brad Dittmer seconded accepting Hugh Rose as an observer member. Unanimous.

Jim Gill's status was changed from observer to principal for Reel EFX at his request.

3 Approval of minutes from the previous meeting

Brad Dittmer moved, Bill Hektner seconded accepting the minutes as written. Unanimous

#### 4 Approval of Agenda

Hektner and Dittmer moved and seconded approving the agenda. Unanimous.

#### 5 Call for patents:

"ESTA intends to publish no standard that contains protected intellectual property, unless that property can be licensed by anyone for a reasonable fee. ESTA uses a process of open patent disclosures to implement this intent. ESTA does not conduct patent searches and does not warrant that its standards contain no protected intellectual property.

"In keeping with the open disclosure policy, I ask if anyone present wishes to notify the working group of the existence of a patent or copyright that might protect material in a standard being developed by the working group. You need not be the holder of the patent or copyright in order to notify the working group of its existence. "

#### 6 Anti-Trust Statement

"The ESTA Board of Directors, the Technical Standards Committee, and the leadership of this Working Group will reject or nullify any actions that restrain trade. Anyone who feels that an action restraining trade is being or has been taken is requested to bring the matter to the attention of the chair immediately. Anyone who feels that actions in restraint of trade have been taken and not properly annulled is requested to notify the TSC chair or ESTA president immediately."

"ESTA legal counsel has informed us that any member of this working group may be found individually liable for any action that restrains trade taken by this working group. An individual convicted of a violation of the Sherman Act may be fined as much as \$100,000 and be imprisoned for up to three years. An easy to read pamphlet describing restraint of trade is available from the Technical Standards Committee."

#### 7 Task Group Reports

##### 7.1 Fog standard E1.5 (Tishman, Segeren, Hektner, Dittmer)

The working group meeting was recessed and a task group meeting was held with the members of the working group offering comment to the task group.

(This paragraph is not formally part of the working group minutes, but is presented here to describe in general the discussions that occurred in the task group meeting.) In discussion it was decided that the document should note that these di- and tri-hydric alcohol fogs are commonly known as "glycol fogs." CAS numbers need to be added for the alcohols. Section 2.2 needs to address the issues of scents and colorants. There should be a definition section, and this section should include definitions of TWA and STEL. The task group should revise document in time to present it to the working group at the January meeting.

The working group meeting was reconvened at 7:51 p.m.

##### 7.2 Fog machine instruction manual standard (Gellatly, Gingras)

Murray Gellatly collected info about existing manuals at this LDI trade show, and will have a report for the working group by January.

While collecting material at the LDI show, Murray discovered that some of the fog fluid vendors did not have MSDS's for their products, a violation of OSHA regulations regarding chemical hazards

communication and record-keeping. There was a discussion about the possibility that the laxity of these manufacturers and vendors may cause problems for all.

Murray Gellatly made the following motion, which was seconded by Mike Wood:

"The F&S working group requests that the TSC request that Intertec Presentations be mindful of the OSHA and other applicable regulations concerning chemicals on the show floor."

The motion was accepted unanimously.

#### 7.3 CMA invitation project (Schoeneman, Segeren)

No report. It hasn't been done yet.

#### 7.4 Equity & League invitation project (Schoeneman, Ruling)

Equity said no. Equity's rejection letter is attached.

Michael Sinder from the League contacted Schoeneman and Ruling, and talked to them about joining the working group. Ruling sent him an application, but it has not been returned.

### 8 Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects revisions

There was a discussion of the resolutions Ruling offered to Larry Schoeneman's comments. (See the appended "Summary Of Comments On "Karl's Comments On The Comments And Corrections" (F&S/97-3012) With Suggested Resolutions.") Kahn made the additional comment that there was no definition of STEL in the definitions section. Ruling drafted one on the spot:

"STEL: Short Term Exposure Limit. The maximum exposure level for a short term, generally 15 minutes."

The consensus was to accept the definition and the suggested resolutions.

Jim Gill moved to forward the revised document with the title "Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects, 2nd edition" to the TSC for its approval for publication. Brad Dittmer seconded. Unanimous.

### 9 Liaison Reports

Larry Schoeneman suggested that there should be a "Chairman's Report" in this section of the meeting and proceeded to give one, which focused on the results of his liaison with the TSC at the TSC meeting.

Schoeneman related Steve Terry's suggestion that we provide pictures in the Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects showing what a fog with a concentration of 10mg/m<sup>3</sup> looks like. There was some discussion as to whether 10mg/m<sup>3</sup> looks the same with all brands of fog fluids. The consensus was that this is unlikely. Mike Wood agreed to do some experiments to see if fog can be photographed well. Tishman agreed to supply Wood with Rosco equipment and fluids if the tests indicate that fog can be adequately photographed. Wood may then be able to do a comparison between High End and Rosco fogs to see if similar concentrations look about the same and what .

Schoeneman reported that he has been invited to attend the next meeting of the NFPA panel charged with writing codes governing special effects. This meeting will be held in Kansas City in November. The TSC has agreed to reimburse for his attendance at this meeting. The TSC will vote whether he is to apply for membership as a representative of ESTA. A report on the meeting will be submitted at the TSC and Schoeneman will keep the F&SWG apprised of his activities at the NFPA meeting.

He also informed the group that in an effort to expedite future votes and in keeping with his authorities as Chairman, a rule would be put in place such that missing two consecutive meetings would cause a Principal (voting) WG member's status to be changed to Observer (non-voting). This change in status would be reversed at the next meeting that the WG member attends.

Possible language for this action is:

"Every principal member of the working group is required to attend meetings. Any principal member or voting alternate who misses 2 consecutive meetings will have their membership status changed from principal member to observer. This action will be taken as the last item of business at each meeting and recorded in the minutes of that meeting."

Schoeneman reported that people at the public LDI F&S Update presentation encouraged us to provide information for people who don't read books and are not likely to read other printed material.

#### 9.1 PLASA (Douglas-Beveridge)

English Equity rang Tony Douglas-Beveridge to tell him what US Equity is doing. Tony told the caller that the CIH reports were on the web.

#### 9.2 JATET (Schoeneman)

No news.

#### 9.3 VPLT (von Hofen)

Florian von Hofen reported that the German translation of the fog book is not good, so he has to retranslate it himself. He expressed doubts that the German translation will sell well, because only about ten copies of the book in English have been sold by him in Germany. There seems to be little interest in having the document in German.

#### 9.4 Labor Unions (Romans/Fails)

Gary Fails reported that the Local 1 safety committee has been quiet.

Eric Tishman reported that Boyd Ostroff says the AGMA contract at his Philadelphia opera company does not allow the use of fog.

Gary Crawford objected to having a person with commercial interests representing the F&S Working Group to Disney, and suggested that Ruling (or someone like him) should be the emissary. Larry Schoeneman responded that the working group had voted to send Tishman, and that it had expressed its confidence in Tishman's ability to represent the group impartially. George Sabbi pointed out that Ruling is a staff administrator, is needed in the ESTA office, and that such a trip would not be appropriate for him. Bill Hektner talked about how the members of the working group have impressed him with their ability to suppress their own commercial interests for the good of the whole. Florian von Hofen objected that we can't have people with no commercial interests representing the working group, that that would be "the beginning of the end." The matter was dropped, and no action was taken.

#### 10 New business

None.

#### 11 Other business

##### 11.1 Congratulations and recriminations over the Friday LDI fog seminar

Gary Fails pointed out that the crowd was smaller, and attributed it to the work we did to educate people.

George Sabbi thanked the panelists, but he also expressed his strong displeasure -- anger -- with the hostile comments that came from a member of the F&S Working Group who was in the audience. Sabbi said that we can fight among ourselves in the meetings all we want, but that our battles should not be fought in public.

## 11.2 Equity/League study

Ruling reported that Equity has announced a joint study with the League entitled "Health Effects Evaluation of Theatrical Smoke, Fog, Haze And Pyrotechnics." Equity and the League have contracted with the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and the Environ Corporation to develop the protocol, and the study is to begin immediately.

According to a notice on the call board backstage at the Phantom of the Opera in New York, the epidemiological assessment will be conducted in three phases by Jacqueline M. Moline, MD, MSc; Anne I. Golden, PhD; and Joan L. Golub, Research Coordinator of the Division of Environmental and Occupational Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

1. Phase one will commence with the distribution of a baseline questionnaire to all actors employed in current Broadway musical productions.
2. Phase two will require the completion of daily checklists for three one-month periods. These checklists may include performance data, activities outside the theatre, personal information such as smoking and stress and the recording of episodes of irritative and respiratory effects.
3. Phase three will be medical evaluations of approximately 100 actors chosen from phase two. The medical evaluations will be conducted at the Equity offices at 165 West 46th Street in New York. The medical evaluations will include videoendoscopy (the visual examination of the upper respiratory tract), videostroboscopy (the measurement of the vibratory capacity of the vocal cords), spirometry (the measurement of pulmonary function), voice evaluation using recordings taken before and after performances, and a physical demand evaluation.

Ruling was directed to contact Mike Sinder to follow up on the application sent him and to offer our services in the Equity/League study.

## 12 Schedule for future meetings

The next meeting is scheduled for January 24, 1998 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Marriott Hotel in Irving, Texas.

The following meeting will be held in conjunction with the USITT Conference and Expo in Long Beach, CA, on Thursday, March 19, 1998 from 7:00 p.m. until 1:00 p.m.

At the next LDI meeting (1998) the group would like to meet Wednesday night at 5:00 p.m., right after TSC meeting. This will make it possible for working group members to spend more time during the trade show days with clients.

## 13 Adjournment

Bill Hektner moved, Eric Tishman seconded. Adjourned at 9:05 p.m.