

Fog and Smoke Working Group Meeting Minutes

8 June 1996
Irving, Texas

Eric Tishman, Chair
Karl G. Ruling, Acting Secretary
In attendance: Gary Fails
Michael Wood
Norman Wright
Adrian Segeren
Marc Gingras
Marge Romans
Eric Tishman
Bill Hektner
Jerry Gorrell, visiting

1] Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order by Eric Tishman at 7:04 p.m., at the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport Marriott. Tishman welcomed Karl Ruling, the new technical standards manager.

2] Attendance and Membership

No applications.

3] Minutes of Previous Meeting

Hektner and Romans moved and seconded the approval of the draft minutes of the March meeting in Ft. Worth at the Worthington Hotel. Passed. Patent statement offered by ET.

4] Call for Patents

None disclosed.

5] Agenda

Tishman proposed adding 8.3, a report on current producers' negotiations with Actors Equity, and 9.4, "What do we do next?" Romans and Hektner moved and seconded approval of the amended agenda. Passed.

6] Glycol Study RFQ Status

Ruling reported that the TSC accepted the RFQ and moved to have it distributed to certified industrial hygienists. Tishman requested that members of the F&S Working Group forward names to Ruling within the next 30 days.

7] *Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects*

Tishman reported that the booklet has been printed, and over \$3,000 worth of copies sold. Conveyed the congratulations of the TSC. Sales are to be made primarily through ESTA's dealer members: direct sales from the ESTA office will be discouraged.

Tishman reported that the TSC has decided to grant the request of the VPLT, made through working group member Florian von Hofen, to translate and publish the booklet in German, while paying a royalty to ESTA. The book will carry a statement noting that it is a translation published by VPLT.

Romans suggested a Spanish translation, and Gingras suggested French. Both said they would pursue these translations.

8] Liaison Reports

8.1] JATET report tabled due to the absence of Schoeneman.

8.2] Labor Unions

Romans offered a written report about her contacts with Actor's Equity, SAG, the American Society of Cinematographers, and AMPTP.

Fails reported that he had presented the draft document to the executive board of IATSE Local 1. Local 1 had been preparing to take a stand against glycol, but Fails' efforts got them to delay. Since then there has been an election, and the two members on the safety committee most opposed to glycol and mineral oil fogs were not re-elected. The feelings of the replacements are not known.

Fails reports that there is great concern about fog safety among the membership of Local 1, with a minority that is vehemently opposed to glycol fogs, but *Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects* has been well received, as has been the news of the proposed glycol study.

Fails also met with reps from 829 and gave them copies of *Introduction to Modern Atmospheric Effects*.

Meeting with all the unions is taking a large amount of Fails' time. It was agreed the Fails will send Ruling a list of contacts, and he will send notices of the booklet's availability to them.

8.3] Producers' negotiations with Equity.

Tishman reported that the LORT contract is done. The only reference to fog is in Rule 48 -- SAFE AND SANITARY PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT:

"The Theatre and League of Resident theatres are concerned about the health and safety of Actors in rehearsal and performance. Staging, choreography, and design must take Actor health and safety into account and will be reviewed by the Theatre accordingly. Of concern, for example, are turntables, moving scenery, weapons, costumes, fog and/or smoke, and the use and degree of raked stages."

LORT agreed to include this rider to all director's, choreographer's, and designer's Contracts:

Broadway producers are still working on their contract with Equity and are willing to move the fog machines to avoid direct discharge on actors, but are standing firm on continuing to use glycol fogs. Equity has put it on the table that they want glycol fog banned.

The New England area Small Professional Theatre contract does contain a ban on glycol fog, at Equity's insistence. The national SPT contract comes up for renegotiation in June 1997, and Tishman believes it will be modeled on the Broadway contract.

Jerry Gorrell reported there is a fire marshal in the Phoenix area that is trying to ban glycol fog, with the claim that the fogs set off alarms. Jerry Gorrell also talked about a new sophisticated alarm system that has a "theatrical mode" that bypasses the alarm signals from some of the duct sensors that are most susceptible to false tripping.

Romans suggested drafting a document on fogs and their action with smoke detectors.

Larry Schoeneman was assigned to work on seeing where NFPA is with code cycle on smoke detectors. A "Theatrical Mode" should be worked into the code.

9.1] Desirability of forwarding the Greg Meeh fog caution list for sale as a large laminated sign.

Tabled. Meeh absent.

9.2] Desirability of assembling a package of pertinent fog literature for sale

Romans moved, Gingras seconded a motion that Tishman and Ruling assemble a selection of documents for review at the next meeting, with the idea of dissemination by the ESTA TSC. Rubinstein and Ruling will work on how to distribute the documents. The distribution should be done before the PLASA trade show. Approved.

9.3] Frequency of review for published documents

Romans moved that review of publications should be a standing agenda item. Hekter seconded. Passed unanimously.

9.4] What do we do next?

Romans moved that we think about future projects and present them at the LDI meeting. Wood seconded. Passed.

10] Other business.

Tishman advised, minutes are not official until approved, and meetings are not to be discussed outside the meeting until the minutes are approved.

11] Schedule for LDI meeting.

One half hour after show closes on Saturday. [November 23, 1996]

12] Romans and Gingras moved and seconded adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.