

A-21 RF minutes

MINUTES OF RF/MICROWAVE PMS COMMITTEE MTG.

March 29, 1985

- Attendees :
- | | |
|-------------|------------|
| G. Johnson | M. Altman |
| R. Burkhart | Z. Glaser |
| W. Robinson | K. Franke |
| G. Krause | J. Monahan |

The Chair announced the proposed reorganization of OST, specifically the Division of Life Sciences. The reorganization will tentatively be effective as of April 8, 1985. This change will impact on the radiation area in that there will be a reduced number of people involved in radiation research. It is expected that RF/microwave programs will continue, but the Center will have to be more selective and more focused on what needs to be done in this area. An expected positive outcome will be a more efficient operation. The Chair feels that this reorganization will have a definite impact on the RF/microwave issues addressed by the Center in the future.

The Soviet visit on March 26-27 was most productive. There was a free exchange of scientific information on both sides. A significant amount of time was spent discussing both the current RF/microwave research programs and the medical device area as handled by both the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. Like us, the Soviets have an organization within their Ministry of Health which deals with the safety and effectiveness of medical devices. The Chair will be visiting the U.S.S.R. in two weeks to discuss medical devices and RF/microwave issues and to attend a workshop, sponsored under a health cooperative agreement between the two countries, to report the results of research conducted here at the Center.

The Soviet visitors recently reported in the literature a study using RF for wound healing. The Chair requested that they have this report translated into English for our use and asked for authorization to visit with the scientists responsible for the conduct of the study.

An International Conference of Medical Device Regulators, to be co-sponsored by the Center and WHO, is tentatively proposed for FY-86. M. Shore is the contact for this activity.

The planning cycle for FY-86 begins this month. A PMS Chairperson's go-away is scheduled for April 1. The Chair solicited topics of concern which the Committee felt should be raised at this go-away. The recurring concern regarding ongoing activities was raised. The Committee continues to be apprehensive about the treatment of ongoing activities. Everyone feels that these activities were ignored last planning cycle and expressed their discomfort with this approach. The Chair agreed with this view and intended to broach this subject at the go-away.

The Chair passed out an article from Microwave News (March issue) on an epidemiological study conducted by a Polish investigator which links /microwave exposure to cancer. Another report was distributed which summarizes the results of a Swedish study by Dr. Hanson which demonstrated brain protein changes and neurological problems in radar maintenance technicians. Apparently, an RF research program will no longer exist at EPA beginning in FY86. DOE will experience drastic cuts in this area as well. The question was raised as to where this leaves the Center. Is our work even more critical now that other agencies are cutting their activities in the RF area, or should we take the same stance as the other government agencies? With no clear answer to these questions, we, as a group decided it was increasingly important to distribute information on RF issues to the Center decision makers to keep them aware of the problems which exist in this radiation area.

MRI and bone regeneration were raised as examples of concern in the RF area. Recognizing that MRI machines are using faster, higher pulses, exposing patients and operators to fields of greater magnitude, it was agreed that it is important that we as a Committee alert the Center to this potential danger. In the past, MRIs were within the suggested guidelines, however, these guidelines are currently being exceeded and this issue needs to be addressed. Bone regeneration was briefly discussed, along with tissue and nerve stimulation since each falls into the RF area.

A retrospective review of the microwave oven standard was proposed as an activity for FY-86. Initially, the group felt that this issue should not be addressed. After some discussion, however, it was agreed that we would discuss the possibility of such a review at our next meeting.

Pam Chissler, OTA, updated the Committee on the status of the cordless phone issue since the approaches used with this device may be relevant to some RF devices.

The Chair distributed an OSR document on CDRH Voluntary Standard Program. We were asked to direct any comments we might have on this paper to Jim McCue before the end of the month.

The next PMS meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 3, 1985, 9-12 am, TRL Conference Room. The Chair asked that we bring brief description of issues we want discussed. These descriptions should include what the issue is, why it is important, and how the Center should approach it.