

Mills

for your files

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note

radiation. Its interest is being concentrated on lasers and microwaves in the first instance, say the board, not because these pose any widespread health hazard but because their use has increased enormously in the past few years and some national authoritative reference is now desirable.

Already, there is a generally agreed safety limit for continuous microwave exposure of not more than 10 mW cm⁻² average power density. This is rigorously observed by present users of radar, one of the main commercial applications of microwaves in Britain.

But there is another growing commercial use of microwaves, in quick microwave ovens which are not yet big business in Britain but whose use will probably increase. The board is setting up an advisory and research service at its Leeds centre, where ovens can be tested for radiation leakage. The second part of the NRPB's extended brief is the use of lasers.

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in the liver, lungs, thyroid, uterus and have resulted in involving doses as per million. The EPA has that exposure to dieldrin was brought to public hearings EPA to determine pesticide should be market. Those heard to be completed or even early next they have been going in free to continue dieldrin and dieldrin. EPA officials confidence against the came from studies Food and Drug National Cancer its own laboratories that they contacted

....., they will not continue in use for another year.

More radiation protection

MICROWAVES and lasers are to be the first two types of non-ionising electromagnetic radiation to be taken under the wing of the British National Radiation Protection Board (NRPB) under an order extending its functions.

Since its inception as a result of the National Radiological Protection Act of 1970, the board has confined its advisory and research services to the fields of ionising radiation. Although it has no statutory powers, it advises the government and other responsible authorities on standards and safeguards against radiation hazards.

The recent order, by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Services, came into effect on August 1 and extends the functions of the board to cover potentially all electromagnetic