

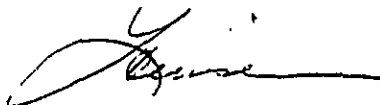
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MEMO

TO: John M. Ropes

Per your request February 23, 1982 for an update to the lists of accomplishments and also a list of achievements concerning turnaround in flow of regulatory power and savings of time and money for the regulatory community, the Standards and Regulations Division submits the attached response. If Don Franklin has need for further information please have him contact me.



Louise P. Giersch

Attachment

In light of the planned phase-out of the Noise Office, we have, at the direction of the Assistant Administrator, developed the documentation and Federal Register Notices to effect the rescission of one regulation, the withdrawal of four proposed regulations, and the termination of developmental work on four other new product noise regulations.

These actions, when finalized, would eliminate the potential expenditure of societal resources estimated at \$596 million in equivalent annual costs (1981 dollars).

It is anticipated that the absence of the Federal regulations will provide State and local governments additional regulatory freedom and expanded flexibility to promulgate and enforce in-use regulations in lieu of the Federal new product performance standards.

In addition to the above actions, the Noise Office is in discussion with interested parties concerning an existing regulation under the Noise Control Act that requires personal hearing protectors to be labeled as to their "effectiveness." The anticipated closing of the Noise Office and the possible elimination of this regulation by Congressional revisions of the Act has prompted the industry to request the Agency to convert the mandated labeling program to a voluntary one. The Safety Equipment Institute, a private organization, has formerly requested this conversion to preserve and maintain continuity of on-going labeling procedures.

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This conversion, assuming we have the legal latitude to effect, would demonstrate that government and a once opposing industry, can work together to provide the public benefits initially sought through Federal regulation, on a more cost-effective voluntary basis.