

LOG OF MEETING
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER NANCY A. NORD

4/30/05
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SUBJECT: ATVs

DATE OF MEETING: September 20, 2005

PLACE: Room 714, Commission Headquarters

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Quin D. Dodd, Legal Counsel to Commissioner Nord

DATE OF ENTRY: September 26, 2005

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Commissioner Nancy A. Nord
Nicholas Marchica
Quin Dodd
Elizabeth Leland
Howard Tarnoff

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Doug Morris, Director, All-Terrain Vehicle Association
Royce Wood, Legislative Affairs Specialist, American Motorcyclist Association

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Mssrs. Morris and Wood described their respective organizations, including membership, events, general budgets, etc. Both described that a central element of their associations is the organization of rider events, which nationwide number about 4,000 annually. Of these, approximately 3,000 have one or more ATV events, primarily racing, but also "mud bogging" and other rider competitions. Mr. Morris indicated that no training is required of competitors in such events, but that there is a good deal of supervision of events, particularly those for children, who can compete in ATV racing events as young as four years old. Mr. Morris also indicated that, to his knowledge, there has never been a youth fatality at an ATVA event. Generally, the popularity of ATV racing events has grown substantially in recent years, while the interest in motorcycle (motocross) events is about the same. In a recent survey, approximately one quarter of AMA members indicated they own an ATV.

Regarding ATV safety generally, Mr. Morris offered that both he and the ATVA strongly support the SVIA/ASI rider training program, as well as the SVIA model state legislation. He also thought that better state enforcement of existing ATV use laws was

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needed and was largely ignored in many areas, including at many public lands riding sites.

Mr. Morris also opined that the inability of parents to get training on their adult-sized ATVs for their children (under 16) may be an impediment to safety, since many of those children will, in fact, operate those adult-sized ATVs (and having a 90cc or similar, smaller ATV at the training site free-of-charge may help alleviate this). Both Mr. Morris and Mr. Wood therefore concluded that having a “transitional” ATV may help improve safety for children too large to comfortably operate 90 cc or smaller vehicles. (And, at its events, ATVA actually allows youth younger than 16 to race 200 cc, two-stroke or 300 cc, four-stroke ATVs where allowed by state law). Mr. Wood thought that an adult sized ATV, but not one as heavy as the larger utility and some sport models, was a good idea for younger teens for whom a 90 cc model is impractical.

Both Mssrs. Morris and Wood indicated their continued support for all reasonable efforts to promote ATV safety.