

Winfield-Hill-Ivan-20050319100003

To: Julie L. Sigall
Associate Register for Policy & International Affairs

Date: 03/19/2005

From: Ivan Winfield Hill
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Comment:

In the past I've often been frustrated by the very long period of time that copyright laws prevent the copying of an old technical book, and I fear that this problem will only get worse with time. In all cases, I haven't been able to contact a current owner of the copyright, if there is one, which has seemed unlikely with the author dead for perhaps 50 years or more. For example, I often rely on a book published in 1932 about the subject of electrical Inductance Calculations. There is a small group of about 15 engineers I know who I'd like to discuss this book with on the international usenet group, sci.electronics.design, but they live all over the world and cannot see my copy of this old book. It's against the law for me to make copies of this book available to them, so it has truly and sadly become an orphan work, which I'm sure must be contrary to the wishes of the long-dead author.

signed, Ivan Winfield Hill