- VERSION 5.0 UPDATES -

Version 5.0 Timeline for Desktops, Notebooks/Tablets, and Integrated Desktops

EPA has received a request from the BAPCo workgroup, developers of EEcoMark, for additional time to refine this tool. EPA has also received requests to go to the provisional Tier 2 Idle approach at this time rather than making use of EEcoMark due to concerns regarding the quality of EEcoMark and the timing of its availability. EPA and the EC remain committed to use of a benchmark, but are also keenly aware of the need for a means of testing computers that stakeholders, EPA, and the EC can support that is available in the timeframe required by ENERGY STAR. The schedule below provides BAPCo with one additional month and providers clear milestones at which use of EEcoMark in Version 5.0 will be evaluated.

August 4: EEcoMark due to EPA and the EC in releasable format (*note: PLAN A/PLAN B DECISION POINT; if date missed, Version 5.0 will make use of a provisional idle methodology as Plan B*).
August 18: Midpoint check-in conference call. EPA and the EC intend to review both internally-collected and stakeholder data shared prior to this meeting to aid in this process. EPA and the EC will evaluate concerns and progress of the data collection.
September 4: Final stakeholder data using EEcoMark due to EPA and the EC (*note: PLAN A/PLAN B DECISION POINT; the compiled dataset will be reviewed to finalize Version 5.0 evaluation method for Desktop and Notebook product types)*.
September 12: Draft 2 distributed.
September 24: In-person meeting, Washington, DC.
September 26: Comments due to EPA.
October 2: Draft 3 distributed.
October 16: Comments due to EPA.
October 23: Draft final distributed.
October 30: Comments due to EPA.
October 31: Final distributed.
July 2009: Version 5.0 effective.

Near-Term Data Collection Efforts for Other Products Covered Under ENERGY STAR 5.0

While BAPCo completes their work on EEcoMark, EPA intends to move forward and continue efforts to collect data on other product areas in the Version 5.0 Specification. The following are details on what will be kicked off in the coming weeks:

- **Thin Clients and Small-Scale Servers:** Based on test procedure feedback and initial data provided by stakeholders for Thin Clients and Small Scale Servers in March and April, EPA will issue a second call for data for these product groups to expand the sample set and take into account product-specific modifications to test procedures made in response to stakeholder comments. Attached with this message for review are a set of proposed data collection sheets and the Operational Mode power (Idle, Sleep, Off) test methodology based on the Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR test procedure. The test procedure document contains tracked changes to show stakeholders differences in the document since its initial release in Draft 1 and for the March call for data.

  EPA asks that stakeholders forward questions and suggestions on these documents to aid in the roll out of this data collection effort to Evan Haines, ICF International, at the email address provided above. Below is a tentative timeline of next steps for the Thin

Client and Small-Scale Server data collection efforts, to be finalized when the test effort begins:

- July 22: Comments on Test Procedure due.
- July 25: Official roll out of the second data collection referenced above.
- August 12: Data due to EPA.
- August 19 (week of): EPA to provide interim levels document for stakeholder review.
- September 3: Comments on interim levels document due to EPA.
- September 12: Comments and feedback considered and a second set of levels proposed in Draft 2 of the V5.0 specification.

- **Workstations:** EPA will soon provide information on the Standard Performance Evaluation Corporation (SPEC) Workstation benchmark that was introduced in Draft 1 as the evaluation method for ENERGY STAR Version 5.0 workstations. The SPEC working group in charge of the benchmark has made significant progress and EPA understands that a releasable version will available for use by interested stakeholders in the coming weeks. EPA will update stakeholders as soon as this occurs and provide a test methodology for the benchmark to initialize the workstation data collection effort. Consistent with standard data collection and analysis efforts, EPA will engage stakeholders throughout the data analysis process and as structure and levels are developed.

- **Game Consoles:** EPA has continued to discuss evaluation approaches with Game Console industry representatives and will include details along with the announcements above. EPA has considered the unique usage scenarios for consoles and is developing requirements that will both encourage lower non-active power consumption and promote design characteristics that encourage efficient operation. Among the requirements EPA intends to propose are:
  - Auto-Power-Down during periods of inactivity;
  - Display auto-off;
  - Power scaling for peripheral functions such as DVD playback; and
  - Potential efficient network capabilities.

  With the proposed requirements, EPA will seek to encourage efficiency improvements in the current generation of game consoles and set a roadmap for future products where appropriate.

- Other Clarifications Regarding ENERGY STAR for Computers -

Reminder on HDD Spindown During the Version 4.0 Idle Test

A stakeholder requested a clarification on EPA's stance on hard drive spindown during the V4.0 Idle test for products being qualified for V4.0. EPA's decision on this topic was relayed in a November 27, 2006 memorandum available on the ENERGY STAR Computer Specification Development Page, direct link: http://www.energystar.gov/ia/partners/prod_development/revisions/downloads/computer/Clarification_Computers_v4_0_11_27.pdf. Please refer to the section titled, "Idle Testing Clarification." EPA will review this guidance if necessary as part of the Version 5.0 development process.

Custom Images Loaded on ENERGY STAR Computers

Since the launch of the ENERGY STAR 4.0 computer specification, numerous partners have raised a concern regarding the impact of loading custom images onto ENERGY STAR qualified computers. The information below is intended to clarify what actions need to be taken by Partners in these circumstances.

Currently partners test and qualify products using their standard software package. They often offer a service to big buyers to load the ENERGY STAR computers with the Agency's or Company's custom software package. In some cases, this custom image can impact the ability of a product to meet EPA idle requirements and can also disable power management capabilities. Partners have asked if these computers can be called ENERGY STAR if they not longer meet the 4.0 requirements once a custom image is loaded.

This matter is of grave concern to EPA as without the sleep mode activated and idle mode requirements met, computers could use substantially more energy -- in some cases, five times more than those with sleep mode activated.

As such, EPA proposes the following steps to help address this issue:

- The Partner will remain responsible for testing products and qualifying them as they ship them. If the product meets and is qualified as ENERGY STAR at this point, it can be labeled as such.
- If the Partner is hired by a customer to load a custom image, the Partner must take the following steps:
    - The Partner must let the customer know that their product may not meet ENERGY STAR with the custom image loaded ***(please see attached sample letter partner is encouraged to share with customer).***
    - The Partner must encourage their customer test the product for ENERGY STAR compliance.
    - The Partner must encourage their customer, should the product no longer meet ENERGY STAR, to make use of EPA's free technical assistance that can assist with Power Management performance. Please see tools as well as contact information at: www.energystar.gov/fedofficeenergy.

Although EPA believes that Partners in partnership with EPA can help ensure their products continue to be leadership products when it comes to efficiency once deployed. EPA is committed to helping to reduce the likelihood that custom images will disrupt a product’s ability to meet ENERGY STAR requirements. For example, EPA is engaging in federal desktop core configuration discussions with the intention of facilitating the development of a core configuration for Federal Agencies that supports energy efficiency. In April 2008, EPA also launched the ENERGY STAR Low Carbon IT Campaign in an effort to get more businesses and organizations to implement power management. More information on the campaign can be found at: www.energystar.gov/lowcarbonit.