

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 5, 2008

Dear ENERGY STAR® TV/VCR Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder:

As you know, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized and distributed the Version 3.0 ENERGY STAR TV products specification to stakeholders in early February. In response, EPA has received enquiries about how VCRs and DVD/VCRs, two product-categories covered under the current Version 2.2 specification, will be addressed in the future given that they are not covered under the Version 3.0 TV products specification. As such, this memorandum presents and requests feedback **no later than May 16, 2008**, on a proposal to suspend (i.e., discontinue) EPA's ENERGY STAR specification for VCRs, effective November 1, 2008, and move the DVD/VCR category to the Audio/DVD specification.

Proposal for VCRs and DVD/VCRs

EPA and DOE seek to identify product categories that can contribute significant energy savings nationwide. An ENERGY STAR specification can achieve sizable energy savings from a product category where there are significant savings on a unit basis and relatively small annual unit sales or, where there are relatively small energy savings on a unit basis, but very large annual unit sales. To determine energy savings potential, EPA and DOE collect and analyze a variety of factors, including, but not limited to the following: 1) Number of products sold nationwide and widespread availability; and 2) Market growth rates. Based on product information submitted to EPA under the current Version 2.2 specification, manufacturers have not qualified any new VCRs under ENERGY STAR since 2005. Additionally, sales of VCRs were projected to fall below 850,000 units annually as of 2006, based on the Consumer Electronics Association's *Digital America 2006*. Given the decline in the VCR market and the fact that no new models have been qualified in over two years, **EPA is proposing to suspend the current VCR specification, effective November 1, 2008**, to coincide with the effective date of the new Version 3.0 requirements (approximately six months from now).

Manufacturers would be required to discontinue using the ENERGY STAR name and mark on VCRs and accompanying materials manufactured on or after November 1, 2008. They also would no longer be authorized to refer to themselves as ENERGY STAR VCR partners. Similarly, EPA would no longer accept VCR product models for qualification as ENERGY STAR or list individual models as ENERGY STAR qualified.

EPA proposes to leave in place the ENERGY STAR requirements for DVD/VCR products as laid out in the Version 2.2 TV Specification, but will combine them with the Audio/DVD Specification going forward. EPA is proposing to make the necessary change in the Audio/DVD Specification scope effective November 1, 2008, to coincide with the transition from Version 2.2 to 3.0 of the TV Specification.

As an important stakeholder in the ENERGY STAR program, your feedback on the VCR and DVD/VCR proposals are welcome. Please submit written comments via email to Mehernaz Polad,

ICF International, at mpolad@icfi.com no later than May 16, 2008. EPA anticipates publishing its final decision on the proposals in June 2008. Please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9120 or kaplan.katharine@epa.gov with questions or concerns.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine Kaplan".

Katharine Kaplan, EPA Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for Consumer Electronics