

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

July 20, 2007

Dear Enterprise Computer Server Stakeholder,

On December 28, 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a letter announcing efforts to explore the development of an ENERGY STAR specification for enterprise computer servers. In order to advance the specification development process, EPA is issuing the attached ENERGY STAR Specification Framework for Enterprise Computer Servers to open a dialogue with stakeholders that would potentially help shape an initial draft ENERGY STAR specification.

The ENERGY STAR product labeling program was designed to ensure that key consumer preferences are met – economic savings, product performance and the reward of protecting the environment. In order to consistently deliver on these expectations, the ENERGY STAR program has six established principles that guide decisions in terms of establishing an ENERGY STAR specification:

- 1) Significant energy savings can be realized on a national basis.
- 2) Product performance can be maintained or enhanced with increased energy efficiency.
- 3) Purchasers will recover their investment in increased energy efficiency within a reasonable time.
- 4) Specification is technology neutral and several energy-efficient design options exist in the marketplace that can meet the requirements.
- 5) Product energy consumption and energy performance can be measured and verified with testing.
- 6) Labeling would effectively differentiate products and be visible for purchasers.

When an ENERGY STAR efficiency level is established, these principles are balanced to ensure that the specified level will deliver significant aggregate energy savings while differentiating products that are cost-effective to the consumer and do not compromise functionality or performance. In order to effectively differentiate products, the specified efficiency level must allow for a reasonable, nationally available selection of products from a range of manufacturers. In many circumstances, setting an ENERGY STAR efficiency level so that the top 25% of models in terms of efficiency can meet it, offers the desired amount of selection and availability while also promising significant energy savings, cost-effective options and no compromise in performance. It is our intent that the attached framework document, and the exchange of information that follows, will serve to advance a number of these principles.

In addition to established key principles, EPA has developed a consistent process by which ENERGY STAR specifications are reviewed and developed. This iterative process involves multiple rounds of draft specifications, industry meetings, data collection, and reviews of stakeholder feedback. After the release of a draft specification document, stakeholders are allowed sufficient time to review and provide comments for EPA consideration. Comment deadlines are set to ensure that the process continues to move forward in a timely manner. EPA makes every effort to ensure that all feedback provided is considered in the development of ENERGY STAR specifications. All comments are posted to the ENERGY STAR Web site with the permission of the organization submitting the comments. As part of this process, EPA works with industry stakeholders to determine an appropriate specification effective date, taking into account manufacturing and design cycles and potential industry events that might serve as a product launch venue. Once the specification takes effect, manufacturers who have signed on as ENERGY STAR partners can begin labeling, marketing, and selling qualified models as ENERGY STAR.

Stakeholders can view a detailed overview of the ENERGY STAR specification development process, including a white paper on EPA's Guiding Principles, on the ENERGY STAR Web site at: www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment. Materials pertaining to the development of the enterprise computer server specification may also be accessed through this Web site by clicking on "New Specifications in Development". Stakeholders are encouraged to contact Rebecca Duff, ICF International, at rduff@icfi.com to be included on the email distribution list and receive updates throughout the process.

EPA is interested in engaging a wide variety of stakeholders including private businesses, government agencies, equipment and component manufacturers, and energy efficiency advocates throughout this process. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide input on this framework document to Rebecca Duff at rduff@icfi.com **by August 31, 2007**. EPA intends to hold an industry stakeholder meeting following this comment period to allow for continued discussions and information sharing. Stakeholders with questions about the specification development process can contact Andrew Fanara, EPA, at fanara.andrew@epa.gov or (206) 553-6377. Thank you in advance for your participation in this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Fanara', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Andrew Fanara
Program Manager, ENERGY STAR Product Labeling