



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

OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

January 25, 2006

Dear ENERGY STAR<sup>®</sup> Computer Partner or Other Stakeholder:

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the following Draft 1 Version 4.0 ENERGY STAR specification for computers. This document outlines the proposed new energy-efficiency requirements that computers would need to meet in order to earn the ENERGY STAR. It is intended that once final, this specification will replace the current Version 3.0 specification. The proposed effective date for this specification is January 1, 2007.

On behalf of EPA, I would like to thank all stakeholders who have provided comments on the framework documents (dated August 17, 2005) and draft idle test procedure (dated September 22, 2005) that EPA circulated previously. These comments have helped to create the foundation for this draft specification.

The Draft 1 Version 4.0 specification incorporates the following key elements:

- Partner commitments are including ENERGY STAR program-wide requirements such as labeling, product qualification, and shipment requirements.
- A power management proposal that includes shipment and consumer education requirements as well as an EPA commitment to convene a series of conference calls to develop a strategy to significantly increase enabling rates in the near term. EPA will host the first of these calls on February 13, 2006, from 2:30-4:30 Eastern Time. The call in number is: (866) 299-3188 and the access code is 202-343-9120#. An agenda will be distributed shortly.
- Proposed Tier I criteria that include a modest idle, standby, and sleep levels, and an internal power supply requirement.
- A recommendation for recognizing differences in performance and functionality, and their associated differences in power needs, using multiple product categorizations or bins (i.e., notebooks, typical performance desktops, high performance desktops, and workstations). Also noted is the possibility of using SPEC<sub>INT</sub> public domain, cross-platform benchmark scores to allocate different power levels based on functionality. These recommendations attempt to address concerns regarding the possible hindering of performance and functionality by including an idle requirement in this specification.
- A proposed Tier II placeholder that relays EPA's intention to work with stakeholders in the near-term to develop an energy efficiency performance benchmark ideally to be effective in January 2008, and a proposal for a provisional Tier II idle level that would go into effect in 2008 if a benchmark is not established by this time.
- Communication of the intent to include game consoles in this specification and a request for product information and performance data.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. **Please note that EPA is requesting comments on all elements of this**

**draft specification. Please send comments to Arthur Howard, ICF Consulting, at [ahoward@icfconsulting.com](mailto:ahoward@icfconsulting.com) no later than February 28, 2006. On February 15, 2006, in Washington, DC, EPA will host a stakeholder meeting to discuss this draft. Comments received before the meeting would be very much appreciated.** Following this meeting, EPA will carefully review and consider all comments submitted and distribute a second draft of this specification. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site unless the submitter requests that their comments remain confidential. To track EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR computer specification and to review comments, visit the Product Development Web site at [www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment) and click on "Revisions to Existing Product Specifications" on the right navigation bar.

**In addition, EPA encourages all manufacturers to assist the Agency in gathering data on the energy performance of the newest models available or those that will soon be released.** This data will be extremely valuable to EPA as the criteria and levels for the products covered by this specification are set. **Receiving data prior to the February 15, 2006, meeting would also be appreciated.**

Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns at (202) 343-9019 or via e-mail at [fanara.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:fanara.andrew@epa.gov).

Respectfully,

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

Andrew Fanara  
EPA Program Manager  
ENERGY STAR for Computers

Attachments: