

Subject: Draft Idle Test Procedure for Review

This message is being sent to you on behalf of EPA and DOE's ENERGY STAR® program.

Dear ENERGY STAR Computer Partner or Other Interested Party,

As you know, EPA is considering criteria for idle energy consumption in the new ENERGY STAR computer specification. This was noted in the most recent specification framework documents distributed to stakeholders on August 17, 2005 and available on the ENERGY STAR Web site: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=revisions.computer_spec.

To facilitate the idle discussion, and in the absence of an existing, industry accepted test procedure, EPA is distributing for consideration the attached Draft Idle Mode Test Procedure developed by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). EPA has reviewed this test procedure and has found it to be a good starting point for developing an ENERGY STAR idle mode test procedure. **Industry stakeholders are encouraged to provide comments on this document to EPA by Wednesday, October 12, 2005.**

EPA will gather and post all comments to the ENERGY STAR Web site then re-circulate subsequent drafts as needed to finalize the test procedure. Additionally, EPA remains open to reviewing and considering other idle test methods submitted by industry stakeholders as we work toward the completion of a final test procedure.

It is EPA's hope to include idle mode, as defined by the test procedure, and propose new levels in the next version of the Draft specification scheduled to be released in November. As you will recall, the goal of including such criteria is to recognize computers that are more efficient across all modes of operation. To meet the November release date, it is important to finalize an idle test method by the end of October so that the appropriate data can be gathered to inform these proposed specification levels.

EPA is continuing to have discussions with various industry stakeholders and international partners regarding proposed revisions to the ENERGY STAR computer specification. If you have comments on this test procedure and/or would like to meet with EPA to discuss the latest framework documents, please contact Rebecca Duff, ICF Consulting, at rduff@icfconsulting.com or (202) 862-1266.

Thanks for your continued participation and support of the ENERGY STAR specification revision process.