

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

June 29, 2006

Dear ENERGY STAR® Computer Partner or Other Industry Stakeholder:

EPA welcomes your comments on the attached **Draft 3** ENERGY STAR (Version 4.0) Computer Specification. All stakeholder comments submitted to EPA on the previous Draft 2 version were reviewed and taken into consideration while preparing this document. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide all comments on this Draft 3 version to Katharine Kaplan Osdoba, EPA, at [osdoba.katharine@epa.gov](mailto:osdoba.katharine@epa.gov) or Arthur Howard, ICF International, at [ahoward@icfi.com](mailto:ahoward@icfi.com) by **July 21, 2006**. EPA will review, evaluate, and address, as appropriate, stakeholder comments prior to the Final Draft of this specification, scheduled for release on September 8, 2006.

#### **Draft 3 and Plans for Subsequent Drafts**

As discussed at the May 18, 2006 Stakeholder Meeting, EPA is releasing this Draft 3 document with the goal of finalizing all definitions and approaches for products covered by this specification. EPA has not included performance levels in this draft in order to address industry concerns that the existing EPA data set did not effectively reflect current or near term platforms. Thus, EPA will propose levels for these product categories based on data received as of August 4, 2006. EPA will then release for comment in mid August the proposed levels, and the data set on which these levels were based. A Final Draft Specification will then be released that incorporates any revisions to the performance levels and other specification requirements, based on stakeholder comments, on September 8, 2006.

#### **Call for Performance Data**

EPA's intention is to develop performance requirements that are reflective of the products available in the marketplace when this specification is finalized in September 2006, as well as when it goes into effect on July 1, 2007. Therefore, EPA is interested in new data for current and next generation platforms. EPA will propose levels based on these data. **Manufacturers must complete and return the attached final data sheet to EPA no later than August 4, 2006, to have their data considered in this final analysis.** It is important that the data points submitted are reflective of both varied configurations of the same model as well as a range of different models, so that EPA has a solid data set on which to base the specification lines. Absent a sufficiently robust and varied data set, EPA will use data collected to date to set the final levels.

### **Call for Workstation Data**

EPA remains dedicated to the idea of a scalable classifier for workstations and continues to assess the feasibility of this approach. On June 23, 2006, EPA presented a new timeline to refine and finalize this approach in the coming weeks; **a process dependent on receiving additional historical workstation data from industry by July 10, 2006**. Without an adequate data set received by this date, EPA will return to the Draft 2 approach for these products.

### **Key Changes in Draft 3 Specification**

Provided below is a list of the key changes presented in the attached Draft 3 Computer Specification. Note boxes have been included throughout the draft specification to clarify EPA's reasoning for making the reflected changes and an attached comment summary document addresses specific stakeholder comments not addressed in the draft specification. In this Draft 3 specification, EPA has:

- Honed the definition for integrated computers to include computers with displays powered through a dc power cord from the system's shared power supply.
- Included a new workstation definition, developed in collaboration with industry, which now more simply and accurately differentiates workstations by their inherent capabilities.
- Revised the product classification for desktops to allow for greater differentiation between desktops for the purposes of Idle allowances. This change was made to better reflect the range of capabilities of desktops currently in the marketplace.
- Removed the distinction for game consoles; these products will now need to meet the same performance requirements as desktop computer systems, including a required automatic low power sleep mode.
- Included proposed language explaining how manufacturers can qualify product families by submitting data for the highest power configuration available. For desktop families capable of qualifying in multiple Categories (i.e., A, B, and/or C), EPA proposes that manufacturers submit the highest power configuration for each category.
- Modified the test procedure to require connection to a network switch capable of both the highest and lowest network link speed of the NIC.
- Included a requirement that all wireless radios be configured as shipped for testing, but that they should not be actively connected to any networks or devices for testing.
- Modified the test procedure to indicate that Idle testing should now continue 10 minutes either after the initial booting of the machine or after completing any log in activity necessary to fully boot the system.

All documents related to the ENERGY STAR computer specification revision process can be found at [www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment). Stakeholder comments on this Draft 3 specification will also be made available on the Web site upon approval from the submitting individuals. If you support the Draft 3 specification, please state this in writing or via email. It is equally important that EPA understand which portions of the draft specification meet with stakeholder approval, in addition to identifying the sections that may need further revision.

Thank you for your participation in this specification development process and continued support of the ENERGY STAR program. I look forward to receiving your valuable feedback on the Draft 3 specification and moving forward to a Final Draft in September.

Best Regards,

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

Katharine Kaplan Osdoba, U.S. EPA  
ENERGY STAR for Office Equipment

Attachments:

- Draft 3 ENERGY STAR (Version 4.0) Computer Specification
- Final Data Collection Sheet for Desktops, Notebooks and Desktop-Derived Servers
- Draft 2 Comment Summary Document