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Update on ENERGY STAR Concept Home

To Builders and Raters interested in ENERGY STAR Concept:

As you know, EPA has been introducing new ENERGY STAR Qualified Homes Version 3 specifications over the past year-and-a-half. This outreach often included discussions about our intent to concurrently release a forward looking specification called ENERGY STAR Concept Home. Based on your interest at one or more of these sessions, extensive details for this new label have been shared with you including an anticipated launch date of January 1, 2011. EPA has decided to delay this launch date because we are actively working with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to align ENERGY STAR Concept Home with their Builder Challenge program. This is an important opportunity to provide a unified federal government voice on an advanced building science specification that meets both of our objectives:

- EPA needs to road-test building science measures targeted for the next new homes specification to ensure they will be ready; and
- DOE needs to promulgate technologies and best practices successfully established in their Building America research program.

EPA and DOE are hopeful that we can align these interests into a coordinated program that will be ready over the next six months. Unless we hear differently, we will continue to keep you on our list of builders and raters actively interested in Concept Home and provide updates as a joint program comes closer to fruition. Thanks so much for your interest. We continue to be excited about the ability to start working with the housing industry on a unified solution for recognizing leading edge builders.

The ENERGY STAR for New Homes Team

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