Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 6, 2005

Dear ENERGY STAR® Room Air Conditioner Stakeholder:

The purpose of this letter is to propose an expansion of the ENERGY STAR criteria for Room Air Conditioners (RAC) to include RAC models with reverse cycle (i.e., heat pump models). This proposal meets the Department of Energy's (DOE) objectives of increasing energy savings and offering an expanding selection of high-performance RACs.

Currently, the ENERGY STAR criteria for room air conditioners covers cooling-only models with the minimum qualification level set at 10 percent more efficient than the corresponding minimum Federal standard energy efficiency ratio. Reverse cycle RACs are covered under the existing DOE product classes and have established Federal minimum EERs, but are not included in the current ENERGY STAR criteria.

After holding discussions with industry and reviewing the market and energy savings impact analysis, the Department concluded this expansion would benefit ENERGY STAR and the RAC marketplace. Room AC Models with only electric resistance heat will continue to be excluded from the ENERGY STAR criteria. For more details on the proposed criteria, please see the enclosed analysis.

Please provide your comments on the proposed expansion of the ENERGY STAR criteria for room air conditioners by **June 10, 2005**. You are welcome to send them to me electronically at richard.karney@ee.doe.gov or by fax at 202-586-4617 or to Bill McNary at bmcnary@drintl.com. Comments received will be posted for stakeholder information at: http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=revisions.roomac_spec

The Department anticipates review of comments and issuing the final criteria in June with an effective date of October 1, 2005.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Karney, P.E.
ENERGY STAR Products Manager

Enclosure