

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

September 17, 2009

Dear ENERGY STAR® Geothermal Heat Pump Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide you with the Draft 1 ENERGY STAR Version 3.0 specification for geothermal heat pumps. The purpose of this letter is to highlight the key changes proposed in the specification and request your review and comments on this proposal by **October 9, 2009**. Following the comment period, EPA plans to host a Web meeting to discuss comments received on the Draft 1 proposal and identify next steps toward finalizing the specification.

Draft Specification Overview

The Draft 1 specification builds on the industry proposal presented to EPA by the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI). Stakeholders can view the AHRI proposal on the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs.

Provided below are key changes proposed in the Draft 1 specification:

- Water-to-water units have been added to the specification to allow consumers greater flexibility in product choice based on their particular circumstances. References to the industry accepted water-to-water test procedure, ISO 13256-2, are provided where applicable. The effective date for water-to-water units is proposed as December 1, 2009 with no other changes to performance specifications effective at this time.
- New performance levels are proposed for water-to-air and DGX systems effective August 1, 2010, allowing transition time for manufacturers of equipment covered under the current Version 2.0 specification.
- Starting August 1, 2010, all ENERGY STAR qualified geothermal heat pumps will be required to be certified by AHRI or another such organization as approved by EPA. Requirements for third party certification organizations are proposed in new Sections 6 and 7 of the specification.
- Manufacturers are required to *offer*, rather than automatically include, a means to provide some or all of the domestic water heating through the use of a desuperheater, integrated demand water heater, or stand-alone demand water heating model. The benefits of incorporating these water heating technologies must be conveyed through marketing and training materials.
- A single phase requirement has been added to limit qualification to geothermal heat pump equipment designed for residential applications.
- Several definitions have been updated to more clearly define the intended scope of the specification.

Text revisions are noted in red font and additional details regarding EPA's proposed changes are presented in note boxes found throughout the document.

Comment Submittal

The exchange of ideas and information among EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. As such, you are strongly encouraged to provide written feedback to EPA. Manufacturers are also encouraged to provide additional data for consideration along with their written comments. Please send comments and/or data to ghps@energystar.gov by **October 9, 2009**.

All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site unless the submitter requests that their comments remain confidential. If you support the Draft 1 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.

To track EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR specification for geothermal heat pumps, visit the Product Development Web site at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs.

Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification. Please feel free to contact me directly with any questions or concerns at (206) 553-6377 and via e-mail at fanara.andrew@epa.gov or Rebecca Duff, ICF International, at (202) 862-1266 and rduff@icfi.com.

Sincerely,

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

Andrew Fanara
U.S. EPA
Climate Protection Partnership Division
ENERGY STAR Product Development Team