

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

July 29, 2009

Dear Geothermal Heat Pump Manufacturer or Other Interested Stakeholder:

This letter is to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is initiating a process to update the current ENERGY STAR® Version 2.0 Geothermal Heat Pump (GHP) specification. The rationale, changes under consideration, and general process are outlined below.

EPA will consider expanding the scope of the specification to address gaps in product coverage that have been identified by industry stakeholders in light of the Federal tax incentive included in the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008. Specifically, the Act references ENERGY STAR qualification for tax credit eligibility and water to water technologies are currently *excluded* in the Version 2.0 specification. EPA understands that water to water GHPs are gaining market share and offer significant energy savings compared to traditional hydronic systems. EPA will also consider updates to existing program requirements necessary to ensure the ENERGY STAR label stays up to date with technological advances in the marketplace. Therefore, EPA also plans to review water to air performance levels and other program requirements, such as warranty.

Over the next several weeks, EPA will work with manufacturers and other interested parties to: (1) collect, review, and analyze energy efficiency performance data; and (2) propose minimum efficiency and testing requirements in a Draft 1 specification. Stakeholders will be given four weeks to comment on the Draft 1 proposal and subsequent draft versions may be developed, as needed, prior to finalization. EPA will host a stakeholder Web meeting shortly following the release of the Draft 1 to review proposed specification requirements and discuss initial industry feedback. EPA's goal is to finalize revisions to the Version 2.0 specification by the end of this year. For more information on the ENERGY STAR specification development process, visit www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment.

EPA has already received a proposal from the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) for consideration while developing the Draft 1 specification. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit additional comments and suggestions to ghps@energystar.gov.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. We hope you will actively participate in the ENERGY STAR specification development process. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at (206) 553-6337 and 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".

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