



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

DATE: June 6, 2003

TO: ENERGY STAR[®] Set-top Box Partners and Other Interested Parties

FROM: Craig Hershberg, Product Manager

RE: Notice to Extend Tier 1 Criteria for ENERGY STAR Qualifying Set-top Boxes

This letter informs ENERGY STAR partners and other interested parties that EPA is extending Tier 1 of the ENERGY STAR set-top box specification, thereby delaying the Tier 2 requirements originally scheduled to take effect on January 1, 2004. Tier 1 requirements will remain in effect on January 1, 2004 and continue to be in effect for a period of time to be determined by EPA in consultation with industry and other stakeholders.

This specification scheduling change is being made for two reasons. First, due to shifts in the economy and other factors, the set-top box technology and marketplace have not progressed as quickly as originally envisioned when the specification was introduced in 2000. Second, it has come to my attention that it is necessary to review the Tier 2 specification and make any appropriate adjustments to ensure the specification will be relevant (i.e., accurately reflect the most energy-efficient models on the market) when it takes effect.

Accordingly, EPA is considering substantive revisions to the Tier 2 specification and has developed some preliminary options. To discuss these and potentially other options, EPA plans to hold meetings with EIA/CEA as well as with individual manufacturers that may not be represented by EIA/CEA. I will follow up shortly to schedule meetings and/or conference calls. In the meantime, if you have specific ideas or scheduling concerns, please feel free to contact me at (202) 564-1251 or by e-mail at hershberg.craig@epa.gov. **Correspondence outlining any proposed changes will be prepared over the next several months and shared with all stakeholders for review and comment.**

Communication between EPA and partners/stakeholders will be handled similarly to other ENERGY STAR specification development activities. EPA will post relevant information about set-top boxes, including draft specifications, meeting announcements, meeting summaries, written comments submitted by manufacturers and others, and other forms of communication on the Product Development portion of the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment.

Thank you for your attention and ongoing support of ENERGY STAR.