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

OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

April 3, 2024

Dear ENERGY STAR® Medical Imaging Equipment Stakeholders:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites public comment on the enclosed Draft 2, Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Medical Imaging Equipment specification. EPA will hold a stakeholder webinar on April 17, 2024, from 12-2PM ET to discuss the Draft 2 specification in greater detail. Comments on this draft proposal may be submitted to EPA no later than May 1, 2024.

The EPA continues to look for ways to provide end-users with improved access to power management. This draft specification adds two elements, operational hours and non-operational hours, which have separate power management criteria. While products may have these functionalities already, the program seeks to automate power management in the case of operational hours and improve the visibility and ultimately make it easier for end-users to work with their vendors to engage power management during non-operational hours.

Overview of Draft 2 Proposal

The EPA received comments from a variety of end-users supporting the effort to create an ENERGY STAR program for medical imaging equipment along with more specific comments on the criteria. Based on these comments, EPA has updated the definitions, scope, test methodology, and criteria elements in Draft 2 after extensive conversations with the public. Note boxes throughout the specification explain the rationale for the changes to the specification.

Key elements of the Draft 2 proposal include:

Scope:
After further discussion with stakeholders, the EPA has determined that it will focus on Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) devices in the Version 1.0 specification and is developing a roadmap with industry stakeholders to collect data to incorporate the other modalities as part of a future revision.

Power Modes and Auto-Power Down:
As part of the amendments made to the Draft 2, the EPA has added definitions for operating hours and non-operating hours and has created power down criteria for each. For operating hours, MRI devices will go into a power saving mode that saves at least 7% (depending on MRI type) compared to the Ready to Scan mode. This power saving mode would be automatic. During non-operating hours, the product would need to be able to reduce its power consumption in a power saving mode by at least 16% (depending on the MRI type). This, however, will not be automatic at this time. There is a desire that moving the MRI into a lower power state should be a conscious decision by the user based on the situation at the time of closing. The EPA is planning on developing materials with stakeholders to provide further information on how to best do this.

The EPA also has retained an interest in providing end-users with the best possible information on the energy consumption of the product. However, stakeholders noted that the numbers obtained through testing may not be a particularly accurate representation of the energy profile of the specific product obtained by the end-user. The EPA is considering additional ways to provide accurate information that allows hospitals and other medical facilities to estimate their consumption and will provide an update in the next draft of the specification.

Test Method:
The Department of Energy (DOE) has made two slight modifications to the test method, adding one test to allow for testing the power saving condition when the product is in the operating hours and noting that the ENERGY STAR test method currently only applies to MRI devices.

Stakeholder Meeting:

The EPA will host a webinar on April 17, 2024, from 12-2PM Eastern Time to answer any questions on this discussion guide. Please register to attend the webinar here.

Comment Submittal:

The public is encouraged to provide written comments to medicalimaging@energystar.gov no later than May 1, 2024. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Specifications and meeting materials will be distributed via email and posted on the ENERGY STAR website. To track EPA's progress on this specification, please visit the product development website.

Please contact me at Fogle.Ryan@epa.gov or 202-343-9153 or John Clinger at John.Clinger@icf.com or 215-967-9407 with questions or concerns. For any other medical imaging related questions, please contact medicalimaging@energystar.gov. Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

Ryan Fogle, Product Manager ENERGY STAR for IT and Data Center Products
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Enclosures:
ENERGY STAR Version 1.0 Medical Imaging Equipment Draft 2 Specification
ENERGY STAR Version 1.0 Medical Imaging Equipment Draft 2 Test Method