

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

February 10, 2012

Dear ENERGY STAR Computer Partner or Other Industry Stakeholder:

As industry continues to take advantage of low-power technology from the mobile space in more traditional computer platforms, products are beginning to offer idle power levels on par with what was previously seen only in low power modes. Though such products may lack a traditional system sleep mode, they present a significant energy savings opportunity.

On November 22nd, EPA proposed the following clarification to make clear that certain low energy desktops can use their idle power in place of sleep mode, if they meet certain conditions. EPA received feedback on this proposal that was supportive of the idea and which also suggested the possibility of lowering the proposed idle limit from 10 W to 5 W. EPA investigated this possibility and concluded that 10 W remained an appropriate interim idle limit. This level ensures that products qualifying under this clarification will be held to the same standards of efficiency as other ENERGY STAR labeled products and will make it neither easier nor harder for these products to qualify. However, to ensure the structure of the requirement remains appropriate, EPA intends to revisit this level during the development of the Version 6.0 Computer specification so that it may be kept in line with updated Version 6.0 levels.

As neither the Agency nor stakeholders have identified concerns with this proposal, EPA is finalizing this clarification effective today.

**Clarification to Version 5.2 Computer Specification**

For low-energy Desktop Computers that lack a discrete system sleep mode but otherwise fit both the scope of the ENERGY STAR Computer program and any applicable product type definitions, Idle State power may be used in place of Sleep Mode power in the TEC equation, provided both of the following are true:

- Display sleep is implemented as required by the specification: the computer's display enters sleep after 15 minutes of inactivity, and this function is enabled upon shipment; and
- Idle power is less than or equal to 10 watts.

This clarification requires the following subsection be added to Section 3.5.2 of the Version 5.2 ENERGY STAR Computer Specification:

\* \* \*

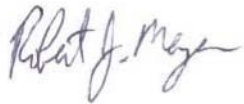
- iii. For Desktop Computers that lack a discrete Sleep Mode but have an Idle State power level less than or equal to 10.0 W, power in Idle ( $P_{IDLE}$ ) may be used in place of sleep*

*(P<sub>SLEEP</sub>) in Equation 1. In such instances, the second term of Equation 1, (P<sub>SLEEP</sub> \* T<sub>SLEEP</sub>), is replaced by (P<sub>IDLE</sub> \* T<sub>SLEEP</sub>); Equation 1 remains otherwise unchanged.*

\* \* \*

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robert J. Meyers".

Robert Meyers

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Climate Protection Partnerships Division  
ENERGY STAR Program