August 4, 2022

Dear ENERGY STAR® Computer Server Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder,

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing the Draft 1, Version 4.0 Computer Server specification. The deadline to provide comments on this Draft 1 specification is September 9, 2022.

EPA released a Discussion Guide for stakeholder review and comment focused on updating definitions, the addition of storage “heavy” servers, and internal power supply efficiency. EPA has taken the feedback received from that Discussion Guide and incorporated this feedback into the Draft 1 specification. The Draft 1, Version 4.0 specification incorporates the following key elements.

Energy Criteria
Although 2020 market penetration for ENERGY STAR certified computer servers was 25%, improved chipsets have largely caught up to the ENERGY STAR specifications. As such, EPA is proposing more stringent ENERGY STAR criteria for server products. This proposal increases the stringency of the active efficiency criteria by 2-3 times over the previous levels with between 24-34% of products meeting the proposal in each bin. This includes smaller servers as well that are best suited for small businesses.

In addition, for storage “heavy” products, EPA is adding the definition for these products, but has not proposed active state criteria at this time due to a lack of data. As has been done for servers in the past, products may be certified and will be required to report the energy data so that the Agency can consider setting active state criteria in a future revision.

Internal Power Supply Criteria
EPA is proposing to create a four-tiered system for power supplies where power supplies at or above 750 watts are required to meet more stringent requirements than those below 750 watts which have maintained their requirements from Version 3.0. This is true for single and multi-output products.

Comment Submittal
EPA welcomes stakeholder input on the attached Draft 1, Version 4.0 specification. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit any comments to servers@energystar.gov by September 9, 2022. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Stakeholder Webinar
EPA will host a webinar to answer any questions on this discussion guide on August 16, 2022, from 1-3pm Eastern Time. Please register here if you plan on attending.

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 computer server related questions, please contact servers@energystar.gov. Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

Ryan Fogle
EPA Manager, ENERGY STAR for IT and Data Center Products

Enclosures
Draft 1, Version 4.0 specification
Data Savings and Analysis Package

For more information, visit: www.energystar.gov

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