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Dear ENERGY STAR® Stakeholder:

EPA has maintained optional connected criteria in ENERGY STAR specifications for several products since 2011 and is looking to advance our strategy on connected criteria for a subset of ENERGY STAR products.

Toward this goal, EPA released the [ENERGY STAR Connected Criteria for Large Load Products Discussion Guide](#), in February 2019. EPA thanks stakeholders for their valuable contributions to the discussion overall and in listed product areas, including CAC/ASHP, EVSE, Water Heaters, and Pool Pumps.

Stakeholder feedback and EPA responses have been compiled into a [Large Loads Discussion Guide Comment Response Document](#). This document is organized with headings throughout, which denote if the sections apply only to specific products or are applicable on a broader scale. Stakeholders are encouraged to continue engaging in these topics throughout the ongoing revisions of the specifications for each product category.

Regarding one of the most discussed topics, demand response (DR) communication protocols and architectures, EPA collaborated with the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) and posted [additional materials](#) on the [connected products webpage](#) diagramming multiple examples of communications architectures.

As Connected Criteria for each of these product categories are developed, EPA invites stakeholders to continue engaging and informing the process both through general feedback and via connected specifications under development. [Water Heaters Version 3.3](#) and [Central Air Conditioner and Air Source Heat Pumps Version 6.0](#) are currently in development.

Thank you for your support of the ENERGY STAR program.

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