



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

September 6, 2012

Dear ENERGY STAR® Water Heater Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to share the attached Final Draft Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR Residential Water Heater specification. EPA would like to acknowledge the many industry stakeholders who have invested substantial time and effort over the past several months to contribute detailed feedback to inform the specification development process. The effective date for this specification will be July 1, 2013.

The Final Draft retains the requirements as proposed in the Draft 3 with exception to the following items:

- **Hybrid Water Heaters.** Stakeholders have expressed concern with the inclusion of hybrid water heaters without a published test method and uncertainty regarding efforts by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to develop federal minimum standards for this product type. Acknowledging these concerns, EPA has excluded this product category in the Final Draft. Accordingly, the definition and qualification criteria for hybrid type units have been removed from Sections 1 and 3 within the Final Draft document. EPA will initiate a stakeholder process to evaluate inclusion of hybrid water heaters once a test method is made available and more data are available.
- **EPACT Covered Water Heaters.** EPA has renamed "EPACT covered residential gas water heaters" in Section 1 to "Light duty EPACT covered gas water heaters" to avoid confusion with the federal definition of the EPACT covered water heaters.
- **Condensate Drain Blockage Alert.** Upon further investigation and discussions with stakeholders, EPA has concluded that the condensate drain blockage issue is not a common occurrence in electric heat pump water heaters. Given the wide availability of after-market devices to serve this purpose, EPA has decided to remove the condensate drain blockage alert requirement from the specification.
- **Significant Digits and Rounding Requirements.** Significant digits and rounding requirements for Thermal Efficiency, Standby Loss and Solar Energy Factor have been added.
- **Effective Date.** Anticipating the completion of this specification development process by October 1, 2012, EPA has adjusted the Version 2.0 effective date to July 1, 2013.

EPA addresses these changes and other Draft 3 stakeholder comments within note boxes found throughout the Final Draft specification.

Comment Submittal

Any comments on the Final Draft specification should be submitted no later than **September 21, 2012**. Please send comments via e-mail to Waterheaters@energystar.gov. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR website unless the commenter requests otherwise.

To track EPA's progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Water Heater specification, visit the Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and click on "Residential Water Heaters".

Please direct any specific questions to Abigail Daken at EPA, daken.abigail@epa.gov or (202) 343-9375 and Craig Haglund, D&R International, at chaglund@drintl.com or 301-588-9387. Please direct questions about test methods to Ashley Armstrong at DOE, Ashley.armstrong@ee.doe.gov, (202) 586-6590. Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abigail Daken". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Abigail Daken, Product Manager
ENERGY STAR HVAC Program