

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 7, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR® Set-top Box Partners and Other Interested Parties:

In response to the ENERGY STAR Version 4.1 Final Draft, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received numerous, competing comments specific to the testing and certification requirements for ENERGY STAR set-top boxes. EPA has considered this feedback carefully and is soliciting feedback on a refined approach before integrating it into the Final specification.

In summary, EPA proposes to take a family approach with this category, qualifying models based on the most consumptive test results and allowing for subdivision of models that cannot qualify on all networks. This approach mirrors that of many other ENERGY STAR product categories and provides consumers certainty regarding how much energy their product may use while also reducing partner testing and reporting.

Under this family approach, an ENERGY STAR manufacturer/brand owner partner would certify a set-top box on the Multichannel Video Programming Distributor (MVPD) network that would deliver the most consumptive results within the ENERGY STAR requirements. This box could be labeled as ENERGY STAR and sold to and deployed by other MVPDs, both ENERGY STAR service provider partners and those who are not ENERGY STAR service provider partners, as long as the energy consumption on these networks is less than or equal to the certified model/network combination. If this same box were to be deployed on a network where its performance failed to meet the ENERGY STAR requirements, the manufacturer partner would be required to assign a new model number for this purpose and refrain from using the ENERGY STAR label in association with boxes with that model number. EPA plans to post, on the ENERGY STAR qualified product list, the most consumptive performance.

Written stakeholder comments may be submitted to stbs@energystar.gov by **March 19, 2014**. EPA intends to complete development of the Version 4.1 specification no later than the close of March 2014. Please direct any specific questions to Katharine Kaplan, at kaplan.katharine@epa.gov, or 202-343-9120, or Matt Malinowski, ICF International, at matt.malinowski@icfi.com or 202-862-2693. Please direct any questions regarding ENERGY STAR testing of set-top boxes to Jeremy Domm, DOE, at jeremy.dommu@ee.doe.gov or 202-586-9870.

Thank you for your involvement in this specification development process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine Kaplan".

Katharine Kaplan
Manager, ENERGY STAR Product Development and Program Administration