June 20, 2013

Dear Data Center Storage Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Final Draft Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR® Data Center Storage specification. Comments on the Final Draft are due to EPA no later than July 15th.

EPA will host a webinar on July 9th from 3:00 – 5:00 PM Eastern Time. The agenda will be focused on changes introduced in the Final Draft. Please RSVP to storage@energystar.gov no later than July 5th with the subject “RSVP – Storage Final Draft specification meeting.”

EPA would like to acknowledge the ENERGY STAR stakeholders who have invested time and effort to ensure the successful completion of the Version 1.0 specification. This specification will take effect on November 5th, 2013.

Key Changes to the Draft 4 Specification

Revisions proposed in this Final Draft include a reduction in the amount of testing required when using accurate modelers for data collection and the inclusion of guidance on storage products qualified with mixed storage device systems through the use of automated storage tiering technology. Further simplification has been proposed in the requirements for storage device replacement and reporting of energy efficiency workload criteria. EPA has also made a number of modest changes throughout the specification in response to stakeholder comments. Each of these modifications is highlighted with a note box in the document. EPA also proposes one modification to the test method, the addition of European three-phase test voltage and frequency requirements. All voltage tolerance ranges have also been increased from ±4% to ±5% for products with rated output greater than 1500W.

Stakeholders are encouraged to review the Final Draft specification and send comments to storage@energystar.gov no later than July 15th. For further information on specification development activities to date, visit the ENERGY STAR Data Center Storage Product Development webpage accessed through www.energystar.gov/NewSpecs (click on “Version 1.0 Product Development”).

Third-Party Certification

Manufacturers are reminded that as of January 1, 2011, all new products must be certified by an EPA-recognized Certification Body (CB) before being labeled and marketed as ENERGY STAR. Upon satisfactory completion of all certification requirements, a CB will notify the ENERGY STAR Partner that the product is ENERGY STAR qualified and will submit qualified product data to EPA for listing on the ENERGY STAR website. For more information on the Third-party Certification program please visit www.energystar.gov/3rdpartycert.

Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program. Please direct any specific questions to RJ Meyers, EPA, at Meyers.Robert@epa.gov, or 202-343-9923; or John Clinger, ICF International, at John.Clinger@icfi.com, or 215-967-9407.

Sincerely,
Robert Meyers
Data Center Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for Storage