August 6, 2008

Dear ENERGY STAR® for Windows, Doors, and Skylights Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is pleased to announce the release of the ENERGY STAR Windows, Doors, and Skylights Draft Criteria and Analysis. DOE thanks all stakeholders for their valuable input, which was instrumental in drafting achievable criteria meeting the DOE objective of increasing energy savings.

The criteria and supporting documentation are enclosed and will be available at http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=archives.windows_criteria_amendment.

The draft criteria differ from the current ENERGY STAR criteria in several ways:

1. A two-phased implementation to ease the industry towards achieving long-term improvements in energy performance.
2. Revised climate zone boundaries more closely matching national and state energy code climate zones.
3. A separate zone and stringent prescriptive criteria for windows in the Pacific Northwest in Phase 1.
4. In the heating dominated north, outside of the Pacific Northwest, windows must meet minimum annual energy performance.
5. Traditional prescriptive maxima in the central and southern regions without equivalent performance criteria (trade-offs).
6. Products must meet a new insulating glass unit (IGU) certification requirement relying on the anticipated National Fenestration Rating Council’s IGU certification requirement.
7. Separate criteria for swinging entry doors that vary according to glazing area rather than climate zone.
8. Revised skylight criteria that are more stringent, though less aggressive than window and door criteria.

DOE looks forward to hearing from all stakeholders registered for the meeting on August 13. If would like to schedule a brief presentation during the meeting, please contact Emily Zachery at ezachery@drintl.com or 301-628-2075. Time slots will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis with industry associations receiving preference.

Stakeholders not attending the meeting are welcome to provide written feedback on the draft criteria by sending an e-mail to ezachery@drintl.com with “Criteria Revision” in the subject line. The public comment period will begin August 13 and last for one month.

Sincerely,

Richard H. Karney, P.E.
ENERGY STAR Products Manager
U.S. Department of Energy