August 22, 2011

Dear ENERGY STAR® Automatic Commercial Ice Maker (ACIM) Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your input on the attached Draft 2 Version 2.0 ENERGY STAR Automatic Commercial Ice Maker specification. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments on this proposal to EPA no later than September 9, 2011. Also, EPA is proposing to hold a webinar in September to present Draft 2 content and discuss the changes with stakeholders.

Overview of Draft 2 Proposal
EPA discussed with stakeholders the Draft 1 specification during the National Restaurant Association (NRA) Show on May 23, 2011. Stakeholders also provided comments on Draft 1 and provided EPA additional information and data to evaluate new approaches and categorization methods. EPA evaluated this valued feedback and incorporated appropriate changes into the Draft 2 specification.

Batch Type Ice Makers
Stakeholders were in overall support of the Draft 1 Batch Type Energy Consumption Rate levels as well as the power curve approach. However EPA received comments that certain buying categories were under-represented in the set of qualifying products. Noting consumer need for ice machines in a variety of size and capacities, EPA has adjusted Batch and Continuous type curves to fit the data per product type (IMH, SCU, RCU) resulting in a more even differentiation between systems across the size classes.

EPA received general support for Draft 1 Batch Type Ice Maker Potable Water use levels. Per a stakeholder request, EPA explored the relationship between ice harvest rate and water use, and the data supported the continuation of the initial levels.

Continuous Type Ice Makers: Ice Hardness Adjustment Factor
EPA received general support from stakeholders in response to Draft 1 to evaluate continuous type systems based on energy use values that are normalized by ice hardness as proposed by the U.S. Department of Energy’s (DOE) ACIM Test Procedure (TP) Notice of Public Rule Making (NOPR). EPA received enough ice hardness data in the development of Draft 2 to create a robust ice hardness data set and to propose new level lines based on this revised approach.

EPA also modified the categories by combining flake and nugget systems into one Continuous Type Ice Maker group. In addition, EPA expanded the definitions section to include Ice Hardness Factor and Calorimeter Constant.

In addition EPA proposes new Potable water use levels to accommodate factors such as measurement tolerances, the inherent water use to make ice, and purge features.
Ice and Water Dispensers
EPA received requests to expand the scope of the program to include Water and Ice Dispensers, based on assertions that non-ice making functions consume a possibly negligible amount of energy. At this time, EPA has limited data to support this expansion, and requests that more information and data be provided. If data does not allow for a complete evaluation of Water and Ice Dispensers as part of this process, EPA will consider addressing these products in the next specification revision.

Test Procedure
Please note that EPA intends to reference the relevant U.S Department of Energy (DOE) test procedure and definitions contained therein. DOE will finalize and publish the test procedure in the Federal Register.

Draft 2 Stakeholder Webinar
EPA is interested in hosting a web based meeting to discuss the Draft 2 specification, and feedback received during the comment period, on Wednesday, September 21, 2011. Stakeholders interested in participating in the discussion should RSVP to icemachines@energystar.gov by September 9, 2011.

Submittal of Written Comments
Stakeholders are encouraged to submit written comments on the Draft 2 Version 2.0 specification to icemachines@energystar.gov by September 9, 2011. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web site unless the submitter requests otherwise.

To track EPA’s progress in revising the ENERGY STAR Automatic Commercial Ice Maker specification, visit the Product Development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs. All specification development materials, including data plots to support the Draft 2 proposal, will be posted to this website.

Thank you for taking the time to review this draft specification. Stakeholders with questions or concerns can contact Christopher Kent, EPA, at kent.christopher@epa.gov or (202) 343-9046 and Erica Porras, ICF International, at (202) 862-2972 or eporras@icfi.com.

Sincerely,

Christopher Kent, U.S. EPA
ENERGY STAR Product Specification Development