

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



OFFICE OF  
AIR AND RADIATION

November 29, 2011

Dear Residential Pool Pump Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the launch of a process to develop an ENERGY STAR specification for residential pool pumps. The purpose of this letter is to provide some background on the ENERGY STAR program, to explain the Program's interest in pool pumps, to transmit a document that frames the Agency's current thinking regarding this product category, and to invite interested parties to an initial stakeholder meeting planned for December 20, 2011.

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary, public-private partnership. More than 2,000 manufacturers currently participate in the program, qualifying over 40,000 product models across more than 60 product categories, including a broad array of consumer electronics and information technology products. (A complete list of ENERGY STAR products can be found at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)). More than 75% of Americans nationwide recognize the label, with 35% of households reporting that they knowingly purchased a qualified product within the past year.

The ENERGY STAR program benefits partners by benefiting their customers. Last year alone, Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, prevented 170 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions—equivalent to the annual emissions from 33 million vehicles—and saved more than \$18 billion on their utility bills. Consistent with our commitment to helping consumers save money and reduce their environmental impact. EPA seeks to expand the ENERGY STAR program as new opportunities arise. According to the Energy Information Agency's End Use Consumption of Electricity, pool pumps are the largest single electrical end-use in homes with pools. The 2009 Energy Information Agency's Residential Energy Consumption Survey notes there are approximately 7.9 million US households with pools.

Several studies have shown that the most immediate and impactful energy savings opportunity for pools is the installation of an energy efficient pump. EPA believes there are opportunities to help consumers recognize the more efficient products in the marketplace and to provide incentives to manufacturers to manufacture and develop more efficient models.

As a starting point, EPA has drafted the attached framework document for residential pool pumps. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide feedback on the issues presented in this document as well as any other thoughts related to EPA developing an efficiency specification for this product category. This document addresses the following topics, each of which EPA **is seeking your feedback**:

- Definitions of products and scope of covered products;
- eligible product types;
- energy efficiency factors;
- connect functionality; and
- draft test procedures.

### **Test Method**

EPA and DOE have developed a Draft ENERGY STAR Test Procedure based on industry-standard pool pump efficiency test methods. Enclosed is a draft ENERGY STAR Test Procedure on which EPA is also seeking stakeholder input. EPA and DOE will work with interested stakeholders to evaluate and finalize the test method in parallel with the specification development process.

### **Launch Webinar**

EPA invites stakeholders to participate in an initial web meeting to discuss this framework document on **December 20 at 12PM, Eastern Standard Time**. Web meeting details and RSVP information will be provided in a future message. This discussion will be important as EPA begins development of a draft of the specification and we hope you can participate. Stakeholders interested in participating in the webinar should RSVP to [poolpumps@energystar.gov](mailto:poolpumps@energystar.gov).

### **Comment Submittal**

Stakeholders are encouraged to submit comments to EPA on the issues and questions identified in the Framework document as well as any other issues associated with the development of an ENERGY STAR specification for residential pool pumps no later than **January 20, 2012**. As EPA moves forward with developing these new requirements, EPA will solicit input from all stakeholders on an ongoing basis via draft specifications, e-mail correspondence, and stakeholder meetings. EPA intends to distribute a first draft of the specification in **February 2012** for stakeholder review and comment.

All EPA correspondence and specification documents will be posted throughout the specification development process to the ENERGY STAR Product Development Web page at [www.energystar.gov/newspeccs](http://www.energystar.gov/newspeccs). In addition, all written comments received by EPA will be posted to the product specific web page unless requested otherwise by the submitter.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Your input is very valuable during this specification development process. If you are not familiar with the ENERGY STAR Guiding Principles, you are encouraged to review them at [www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment](http://www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment).

Please feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9046 and [kent.christopher@epa.gov](mailto:kent.christopher@epa.gov) or Erica Porras, ICF International, at (202) 862-2972 or [EPorras@icfi.com](mailto:EPorras@icfi.com) with any questions or comments.

Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR. I look forward to working with you during the specification revision process.

Sincerely,



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