

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 18, 2011

Dear ENERGY STAR Water Cooler Stakeholder:

Although the ENERGY STAR Water Cooler specification was revised in 2010 to Version 1.3, the specification levels have remained unchanged since 2008. During the life of this specification, manufacturers have improved the efficiency of their water cooler products by reducing the mixing of hot and cold water in units, improving insulation around water tanks, and offering units that heat water on demand. Water coolers that have earned the ENERGY STAR label use about half the energy of conventional models, and can save consumers more than \$200 over the lifetime of the unit. EPA applauds this accomplishment.

Recognizing that ENERGY STAR water coolers hold an estimated majority market share, EPA intends to engage with stakeholders in the coming months to develop revised ENERGY STAR requirements for water coolers. Prior to launching a revision to the ENERGY STAR levels for these products, EPA intends to address a number of test procedure issues raised by stakeholders. Key concerns include testing and establishing fair requirements in light of product differences such as: capacity, water delivery wait time, default water dispensing temperatures, and class of product (i.e. Point-of-Use, Cook & Cold, Hot & Cold, etc.).

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) leads test procedure development for the ENERGY STAR program. As such, DOE will work with EPA and with ENERGY STAR stakeholders to evaluate and refine the test method for water coolers. DOE is drafting proposed changes to the current ENERGY STAR test method and plans to share a draft with stakeholders at the close of this month. EPA and DOE will host a webinar to discuss the proposed changes and gather stakeholder feedback on June 7, 2011. More information regarding meeting registration will be sent with the draft (Stage 1) Test Procedure. The agencies will also invite written comment on this draft.

Please contact Paul Karaffa, EPA, at karaffa.paul@epa.gov with questions. EPA and DOE look forward to working with you and with other stakeholders as we revisit the Water Cooler Test Procedure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Karaffa".

Paul Karaffa
ENERGY STAR Program
United States Environmental Protection Agency