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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 22, 2013

Dear ENERGY STAR Battery Charging System (BCS) Manufacturers and Other Interested Parties:

The purpose of this letter is to present a proposal from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to sunset the ENERGY STAR specification for Battery Charging System (BCS) products effective June 3, 2014. EPA requests feedback on this proposal no later than December 13, 2013.

Under certain circumstances, EPA makes the determination that an ENERGY STAR specification for a particular product category should be sunset rather than revised. Some or all of the following factors play into such a decision:

- Additional, cost-effective efficiency gains are not available or anticipated
- A standard exists or is forthcoming at the current ENERGY STAR level that will serve as a backstop so efficiency gains are maintained
- The market has evolved such that the product type is being discontinued

For this product category, EPA has determined that limited additional, cost-effective savings are available and that the presence of a California Energy Commission (CEC) standard, more stringent than the current ENERGY STAR level, will serve as a back-stop for these globally traded products. Under these circumstances, allowing BCS products to continue to carry the ENERGY STAR label would be misleading to consumers, who expect the label to represent meaningful savings compared to standard models on the market. Thus, EPA proposes to sunset the ENERGY STAR BCS product program. This memo outlines the ENERGY STAR BCS program background, the rationale for this sunset proposal, and a proposed timeline for sunsetting the program.

ENERGY STAR BCS Program Background

The ENERGY STAR Version 1.0 BCS specification took effect in January, 2006. It was designed to complement the ENERGY STAR specification for external power supplies and to quickly deliver significant energy savings by focusing on stand-by losses in stand-alone chargers as well as the charging of a range of mechanical devices, including power tools, electric razors, hand-held vacuums and grass trimmers. Since the introduction of this product category to the ENERGY STAR portfolio, 29 manufacturers have partnered with EPA to deliver more than 500

efficient battery charging systems to the market place saving enough energy to power more than 28,000 homes annually.

With the intention of expanding the ENERGY STAR BCS program scope to cover chargers for portable electronics and including new active charging metrics, EPA initiated the development of an ENERGY STAR Version 2.0 BCS specification. During this development process, the CEC finalized California BCS standards, establishing aggressive requirements for non-active and active charging across all relevant small battery charger product categories.

Analysis of Potential for Additional Savings

EPA analyzed relevant CEC certified, non-active and active, performance data on over 3,800 small battery charger products. Product data was grouped by battery energy and product type as follows:

- All products with battery energy < 2.5 watt-hours
- All products with battery energy > 2.5 watt-hours and ≤ 100 watt-hours
- All products with battery energy > 100 watt-hours and ≤ 1000 watt-hours
- All products with battery energy > 1000 watt-hours
- Cell phones and smartphones only
- Tablets and slate computing products only
- Digital cameras and video recorders only

Isolating top performers within each sub-group, EPA observed very limited potential additional savings in both active and non-active charging compared to the California standard particularly in light of the challenges and cost of administering the ENERGY STAR BCS program.

Proposed Milestones for Sunsetting the ENERGY STAR BCS Program

In light of the limited potential for additional savings, EPA proposes the following milestones associated with implementing this proposal:

- ENERGY STAR certified BCS products and their manufacturers will continue to be recognized at www.energystar.gov until June 3, 2014.
- No new Partnership Agreements for the BCS program will be accepted by EPA as of January 6, 2014.
- No new certified product information for the BCS program will be accepted by EPA as of January 6, 2014.
- No new promotional materials for BCS products (printed and electronic) that use the ENERGY STAR mark may be produced after January 6, 2014. Manufacturers are permitted to use up existing printed material, including packaging, in order to minimize waste.
- Manufacturers must stop using the ENERGY STAR name and ENERGY STAR mark in association with all BCS products manufactured on or after June 3, 2014.
- To minimize the cost of labeling changes and be in compliance by June 3, 2014, manufacturers of BCS products are encouraged to remove ENERGY STAR references on Web sites or in other collateral materials as these materials are reprinted or changed in the coming months.

Stakeholders are invited to comment on this proposal to sunset the ENERGY STAR BCS product program. Any feedback or data you wish to share with EPA may be submitted via email to batterychargers@energystar.gov , no later than December 13, 2013. In closing, EPA appreciates the efforts of BCS product partners to advance a cleaner environment through the ENERGY STAR Program and applauds your success in moving the market towards greater energy efficiency. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ann Bailey, Chief
ENERGY STAR Labeling Branch
US Environmental Protection Agency