

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 5, 2013

Dear Game Console Manufacturer or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to provide you with a final version of the Agency's voluntary criteria for energy efficient game consoles, which include performance requirements as well as a test method. EPA would like to thank the numerous stakeholders who have invested time and effort over the past year to contribute feedback to the development of these criteria. This letter describes EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)'s final decisions regarding these criteria and outlines an opportunity for recognition of companies whose game consoles meet the requirements.

These criteria recognize big leaps in efficiency in a number of important ways. Game consoles that meet these criteria will power down when not in use and play and stream media content in a power-wise manner meaning users will enjoy a high quality gaming experience for a fraction of the power of a standard game console. *Forty-nine percent of U.S. households, a total of about 57 million homes, own a game console. If all of these game consoles were to meet the new EPA criterion for movie play, we would realize over \$215 million in electricity bill savings and prevent 1.3 million metric tons of CO2 emissions, equivalent to the emissions from over 250,000 cars.*

These game console efficiency criteria were developed through extensive engagement with stakeholders, including the distribution of numerous drafts and multiple meetings. Enclosed with this letter are EPA and DOE responses to stakeholder comments on the final draft performance requirements and test method. Stakeholder comments, previous draft versions, and related materials can be found at www.energystar.gov/NewSpecs.

EPA has retained the proposed final draft Active Navigation Menu (40.0 W), Active Streaming Media (50.0 W), and Standby (0.5 W) maximum power limits. EPA recognizes that consoles are increasingly providing non-gaming services, such as media play and should be held to similar standards as devices providing these same services (standard IP set-top boxes typically consume 10-20 W). These voluntary requirements are reflective of current and well-tested approaches used in related products and are intended to incentivize greater efficiencies in game consoles.

Minor changes to the Test Method since the final draft are summarized below:

- DOE has developed a new test reporting template for the Test Method attached with this cover letter.

- DOEs has removed section 6.1.A from the Final Draft, which required UUT hardware information to be recorded in the Test Reporting Form. These reporting requirements were not directly related to testing. The Test Reporting Form requires that UUT information is still provided, but this requirement is not highlighted in the test method.

Recognizing Leadership

EPA understands that achieving the dramatic reductions in energy use anticipated by these new voluntary criteria requires deep commitment from an engineering, consumer education, and cost perspective. EPA is pleased to recognize manufacturers that take the steps to make energy efficiency a top priority for the design of their game consoles. Leadership demonstrated by the companies who achieve these levels of performance should be celebrated. EPA looks forward to working with such leaders to recognize and promote their achievement. EPA anticipates recognizing companies whose products meet these criteria at the 2013 Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) conference, and will extend this recognition through the EPA website and social media. To pursue this further, please contact Paul Karaffa, US EPA, at Karaffa.Paul@epa.gov or (202) 343-9401. Please direct questions specific to the Test Method to Bryan Berringer, US DOE, at Bryan.Berringer@ee.doe.gov or (202) 586-0371.

Sincerely,



Paul Karaffa, Manager
EPA Recognition Program for Game Consoles

Enclosures:

Final Draft Version 1.0 Comment Response Document
Final Version 1.0 EPA Voluntary Criteria for Energy Efficient Game Consoles
Game Consoles Data Spreadsheet