

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

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Dear ENERGY STAR® Climate Control Manufacturer or Other Interested Stakeholder:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is working with stakeholders to develop the Version 1.0 ENERGY STAR Residential Climate Controls specification. This notice is to update you regarding our anticipated schedule.

Following the release of the Draft 2 specification, EPA focused upon developing the Residential Climate Control usability requirements, both prescriptive and performance based.

EPA released a draft of the usability requirements and the test method in November 2010, followed by a stakeholder meeting in December and a webinar in January.

In line with the November 2009 memorandum of understanding, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is working closely with EPA to develop the performance-based usability test method. Most recently, DOE released a Request for Proposal (RFP) for usability testing to evaluate and improve the draft usability test method. DOE received and is currently evaluating multiple proposals for the RFP.

DOE is also planning to release a second RFP for a round-robin usability test program before the next Residential Climate Controls draft specification is released to stakeholders. The next draft specification (Draft 3, Version 1.0) will incorporate the knowledge gained from these two RFPs to improve, and hopefully reduce the cost of, the usability test method.

The necessity of these test programs was not originally anticipated and their insertion into the Residential Climate Controls specification development program significantly impacts the specification development schedule. EPA believes, however, that the inclusion of these test programs is vital for development of a robust and repeatable test method that will successfully differentiate highly usable Residential Climate Controls.

EPA is currently targeting the following major milestones associated with the ENERGY STAR Residential Climate Controls specification development:

February 2011	Stage 1 Usability Testing Proposals Due
July 2011	Stage 1 Usability Testing Results
August 2011	Stage 2 Round-Robin Usability Testing RFP
September 2011	Stage 2 Round-Robin Usability Results
December 2011	Draft 3 Residential Climate Controls specification (incorporating usability requirements and test method)
January 2012	Draft Final Residential Climate Controls specification
February 2012	Final Residential Climate Controls specification

This schedule includes time for awardees of the two RFPs to clear their work plans with DOE's review board overseeing human subject testing. If the board chooses to waive a full review, the schedule could be accelerated by as much as 8 weeks. The schedule also includes an extended 30-day comment period after release of the Draft 3 specification.

Please note the above dates are estimates and subject to change.

If you have any questions, please contact Abigail Daken, EPA, at Daken.Abigail@epa.gov or Doug Frazee, ICF International, at dfrazee@icfi.com.

Thank you.