

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

January 3, 2007

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Transformer Partners and Other Interested Parties:

In November 2006, I distributed a letter to stakeholders providing EPA's proposal to suspend (i.e., discontinue) the ENERGY STAR specification for low voltage dry-type, commercial and industrial (C&I) transformers and discontinue the utility transformers program. The letter included a request for feedback on the proposed suspension by December 8, 2006. After reviewing all comments received, **EPA has decided to suspend the current low voltage dry-type, C&I transformer specification and discontinue the utility transformers program effective on May 1, 2007.**

EPA wishes to thank those stakeholders who provided feedback on its proposal. Two responses were submitted to EPA for review and consideration. While one stakeholder encouraged EPA to maintain the specification for low voltage dry-type C&I transformers, no information was provided supporting the feasibility of a more stringent ENERGY STAR specification. Without sufficient product differentiation to justify both mandatory standards and voluntary high-efficiency specifications, EPA has decided to go forward with the suspension of the ENERGY STAR specification for low voltage dry-type C&I transformers. However, as energy efficient technologies evolve, improve, and mature, if there is an opportunity for ENERGY STAR to play a role in the transformer marketplace, then EPA may consider a revised specification at that time.

As of May 1, 2007, the main transformers page on the ENERGY STAR Web site will be removed, including partner and product lists, and qualifying product information forms. The Web site will continue to include the ENERGY STAR Eligibility Criteria and testing procedures which may be cited in the Department of Energy's rules, as a link from the main product page (www.energystar.gov). In addition, EPA will continue to include general information (e.g., sample procurement language) on its Web site regarding energy-efficient transformers for use by procurement officials and others.

The suspension of the ENERGY STAR specification for transformers has several important implications for EPA and stakeholders. The table below provides these key changes and their effective dates:

Key Changes:	Effective Dates:
EPA will no longer accept new Partnership Agreements for transformers	January 3, 2007
EPA will no longer accept new qualifying product information from transformer partners	January 3, 2007
Transformer manufacturers may no longer refer to themselves as ENERGY STAR partners	April 30, 2007
Transformer manufacturers must discontinue use of the ENERGY STAR name and mark on product literature, product packaging, and the manufacturer's Web site (i.e., manufacturers may not apply the mark to new materials after April 30, 2007; EPA understands that existing stock produced prior to April 30 will bear the ENERGY STAR mark as it filters through the distribution channel)	April 30, 2007
EPA will no longer maintain and/or display a transformer Web page with partner and product listings on its ENERGY STAR Web site	May 1, 2007

Please note that EPA has given manufacturers approximately four months to discontinue use of the ENERGY STAR name and mark on any previously qualified transformer materials. During this transition time, EPA will continue to recognize ENERGY STAR qualified transformers and their manufacturers at www.energystar.gov. However, at the end of this transition time, on April 30, 2007, manufacturers must cease using the ENERGY STAR name and mark in association with all previously qualified transformer models.

Please feel free to contact me at your convenience if you have any questions or concerns. I can be reached by phone at (202) 343-9124 or by email at schmeltz.rachel@epa.gov.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in and support of ENERGY STAR over the years. You have been an important part of ENERGY STAR's success and I look forward to working together again in the future.

Regards,



Rachel Schmeltz
ENERGY STAR Program Manager
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency