

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

February 9, 2011

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Computer Stakeholders and Other Interested Parties:

With this letter, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching a revision of the ENERGY STAR[®] Version 5.0 Computer specification. This letter highlights an initial list of priority areas for the revision and outlines next steps for the specification development process. With this letter, EPA would also like to invite stakeholders to an **in-person meeting intended to engage stakeholders early in specification planning and development on Thursday, March 10, 2011 in Washington, DC**. Details on this meeting will be provided in the coming weeks.

The Version 5.0/5.2 ENERGY STAR specification has been in effect since July 2009. Along with Displays, the Computer program was the first labeled product in the ENERGY STAR program; EPA and its Partners have continued to work together to develop and promote the availability of energy-efficient computers to the market, while encouraging more efficient operation of computers through power management. Initial market research and discussions with stakeholders suggest strong opportunities to ensure further energy savings through refinement of existing provisions in the program and consideration of new categories and product types.

EPA is in the process of developing a Specification Framework document to capture key areas for inclusion in this specification and solicit stakeholder feedback and input. EPA intends to distribute this document to stakeholders by mid-February. This framework will include the following topics, among others:

- Maintaining the Version 5.0/5.2 scope (desktops, notebooks, workstations, thin clients, small-scale servers), with investigation of the possible addition of mobile computing platforms (tablets, ultra mobile products) and ultra-thin clients;
- Developing more stringent energy-efficiency requirements for existing products (based on market observations, recent ENERGY STAR market share indications, and future data assembly efforts). Harmonizing, where appropriate, with developments in international standards for product energy efficiency. Promoting alignment between the ENERGY STAR program and the ECMA-383/IEC-62623 standard;
- Enhancing test methods to account for the Long and Short Idle States, graphics power management, discrete graphics capability, and to include integral display power in energy efficiency assessments;
- Reconsidering usage patterns for existing product types, new product types, and for Full Network Connectivity requirements;
- Incorporating an active-mode efficiency reporting requirement for workstations to accompany existing efficiency requirements;
- Implementing Energy Efficient Ethernet in the specification through requirements or enablement during ENERGY STAR testing; and
- Evaluating environmental benefits outside of energy efficiency.

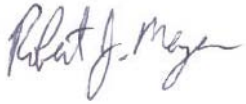
EPA intends to work with stakeholders over the 2011 calendar year and tentatively plans to complete development activities with release of the finalized Version 6.0 specification in the fall of 2011. As stated previously, EPA plans to distribute a frame work document in the coming weeks and to host a stakeholder meeting to discuss this framework on March 10, 2011. EPA encourages stakeholders interested in presenting at this meeting to email computers@energystar.gov to express their interest.

Specifications and meeting materials will be distributed via email and posted on the ENERGY STAR Web site. To track EPA's progress with the revision of this specification, please visit the Computer specification development web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment, selecting the "Revisions to Existing Specifications" link and navigating to "Computers."

We encourage you to participate in the ENERGY STAR specification revision process. If you know of others who may be interested in participating, please forward this announcement and encourage them to send their contact information to computers@energystar.gov and ask to be added to the list of interested parties. Please direct any specific questions to Robert Meyers, US EPA, at Meyers.Robert@epa.gov, or Evan Haines, ICF International, at ehaines@icfi.com.

We look forward to working with you and thank you for your interest in ENERGY STAR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Robert J. Meyers".

Robert J. Meyers
ENERGY STAR for Office Equipment
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency