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

July 6, 2017

Dear ENERGY STAR® Computers Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder,

With this letter, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is releasing the Draft 1, Version 7.0 ENERGY STAR Computer specification. EPA received feedback regarding the timeline presented in the discussion document released earlier this year. However, with the market penetration for laptop computers at 95%, EPA believes that stronger ENERGY STAR criteria are necessary to effectively differentiate highly energy-efficient products. Therefore, EPA is maintaining its goal of completing the specification revision in 2017, but has reduced the scope of the Version 7.0 revision to those elements outlined in this cover memo. Version 8.0 will focus on the desktop and integrated desktop categories and consider updates to the categorization methodology to account for changes in the market. EPA anticipates beginning the specification development process for Version 8.0 in earnest in 2018. In addition, EPA anticipates beginning discussions on desktops during Version 7.0 specification development to allow sufficient time to thoughtfully consider the change in categorization system.

Draft 1, Version 7.0 Specification
The Draft 1, Version 7.0 specification incorporates the following key elements:

Energy Criteria:
EPA is proposing to amend the criteria for notebook computers, thin clients, and slates/tablets. For notebook computers, the proposal is to consolidate the notebook categories, reduce the base allowances for the notebook categories, and harmonize most adders with those recently adopted by the California Energy Commission.

In thin clients, EPA has proposed to reduce the base allowance, but has left the other adders in place. Tablets/slates and portable all-in-one computers have also been consolidated so that all products in this category utilize the notebook adders. EPA believes that portable all-in-one computers are essentially a larger tablet, and this approach aligns with the European Commission's Ecodesign regulation.

Amendments to Scope:
As part of the discussion document, EPA solicited comment on the scope of the ENERGY STAR Computers specification, in particular on small-scale servers, interactive displays, and zero clients. After consideration of stakeholder feedback, EPA is proposing to remove small-scale servers from the scope of this specification. In addition, zero clients will remain excluded from the ENERGY STAR scope in Version 7.0 and interactive displays will continue to be covered under the latest ENERGY STAR Displays specification.

Power Supply Criteria:
After consideration of data received since the completion of Version 6.1, EPA is proposing to increase the power supply criteria from 80Plus Bronze to 80Plus Gold equivalent. In addition, the incentives for higher efficiency power supplies have been maintained and are applicable to 80Plus Platinum and 80Plus Titanium equivalent products.

Full Network Connectivity:
EPA remains committed to increasing the adoption of power management settings. As noted in the discussion document, a key component of this is the adoption of low power settings like those in smart phones, such as Microsoft's Modern Standby and Apple's Power Nap. In order to increase the adoption of these features, EPA has amended the definition for Full Network Connectivity to incorporate these features. In addition, EPA will be adding a field on the ENERGY STAR certified product list to identify those products that have these capabilities and add content on the ENERGY STAR website to educate consumers on the benefits of these types of features. EPA notes that there may need to be certain changes to the standards requirements within the specification and requests feedback on what standards would be appropriate for low power setting features.

Comment Submittal
EPA welcomes stakeholder input on the attached Draft 1, Version 7.0 specification. Stakeholders are encouraged to submit any comments to computers@energystar.gov by August 3, 2017. All comments will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website unless the submitter requests otherwise.

Stakeholder Webinar
EPA will host a webinar to answer any questions on this Draft 1 specification on **July 18, 2017 from 12-2 PM Eastern Time**. Please register here if you plan on attending.

The exchange of ideas and information between EPA, industry, and other interested parties is critical to the success of ENERGY STAR. Specifications and meeting materials will be distributed via email and posted on the ENERGY STAR website. To track EPA's progress on this specification, please visit the product development website at www.energystar.gov/revisedspecs and navigate to "Computers."

Please contact me at Fogle.Ryan@epa.gov or 202-343-9153 or John Clinger at John.Clinger@icf.com or 215-967-9407 with questions or concerns. For any other computer related questions, please contact computers@energystar.gov. Thank you for your continued support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

Ryan Fogle
EPA Manager, ENERGY STAR for IT and Data Center Products