

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

May 25, 2007

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Exit Sign Partner or Interested Stakeholder:

In 2005, Congress passed the Energy Policy Act (EPAAct), which contained new Federal minimum efficiency standards for single-faced exit signs that are equivalent to ENERGY STAR levels for input power demand. In light of Congress's actions, EPA conducted a review of the exit sign market and the ENERGY STAR specification to determine appropriate next steps. The purpose of this letter is threefold:

- 1) Notify stakeholders of EPA's proposal to suspend (i.e., discontinue) the ENERGY STAR specification for all exit signs effective December 1, 2007;
- 2) Provide EPA's rationale for suspending the specification rather than revising it to a higher efficiency level; and
- 3) Solicit stakeholder input on EPA's proposal by June 25, 2007.

EPA is proposing to suspend the specification, rather than revise it, because research indicates that the performance and longevity of signs could be compromised if the input power demand is driven below five watts per sign. One of ENERGY STAR's guiding principles is that product performance can be maintained or enhanced with increased energy efficiency. And although photo- and radio-luminescent exit signs could meet a more stringent specification, an ENERGY STAR specification that only these technologies could meet would not be acceptable given that these signs are not appropriate for all applications. In addition, although the Federal minimum efficiency standard addresses only single-faced exit signs, EPA is concerned it would be confusing to purchasers if the ENERGY STAR specification remained the same but applied only to double-faced signs.

EPA is proposing to suspend the ENERGY STAR specification for exit signs effective December 1, 2007 (approximately six months from today). Manufacturers would be required to discontinue using the ENERGY STAR name and mark on exit sign materials created on or after December 1, 2007. They also would no longer be authorized to refer to themselves as ENERGY STAR Exit Sign partners. Similarly, EPA would no longer accept product models for qualification as ENERGY STAR or list individual models as ENERGY STAR qualified. However, EPA would continue to include general information on our Web site regarding energy efficient exit signs, including information about photo- and radio-luminescent technologies, for use by procurement officials and others. In addition, the ENERGY STAR eligibility criteria will continue to be posted in a link from the main "Products" page on the ENERGY STAR Web site titled "Historical ENERGY STAR Specifications referenced in EPAAct," since the Department of Energy will likely continue to reference ENERGY STAR in its rules.

As an important stakeholder in ENERGY STAR for Exit Signs, your feedback on this proposal is welcome. Please submit written comments via email to fanara.andrew@epa.gov. Alternatively, if you would like to discuss the rationale behind EPA's proposal to suspend the exit sign specification, please call me at (206) 553-6377. **Comments received by June 25, 2007 will be considered; EPA expects to publish its final decision by the end of July 2007.**

All correspondence regarding the exit sign specification will be posted on the Product Development portion of the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment. Thank you for your support of ENERGY STAR.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Fanara', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Andrew Fanara
ENERGY STAR Program Manager