



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

OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

October 28, 2009

Dear IEEE 802:

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is launching the development of an ENERGY STAR specification for Small Network Equipment (SNE). The purpose of this letter is to provide some background on the ENERGY STAR program, to explain the Program's interest in SNE, to transmit a document that frames the Agency's current thinking regarding this product category, and to alert you to an initial stakeholder meeting we have planned.

ENERGY STAR is a voluntary, public-private partnership. More than 2,000 manufacturers currently participate in the program, qualifying over 40,000 product models across more than 60 product categories, including a broad array of consumer electronics and information technology products. (A complete list of ENERGY STAR products can be found at www.energystar.gov). More than 75% of Americans nationwide recognize the label, with 35% of households reporting that they knowingly purchased a qualified product within the past year.

The ENERGY STAR program benefits partners by benefiting their customers. Last year alone, Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, prevented 43 million metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions—equivalent to the annual emissions from 29 million vehicles—and saved more than \$19 billion on their utility bills.

EPA is committed to helping consumers save money and reduce their environmental impact. In more recent years, the Agency has focused on driving efficiency in the growing number of products that consumers plug in each day. Consumer electronics are a large part of this relatively new plug load, now accounting for 15 percent of household electricity use.

Small network equipment is sold in large numbers, with shipments of nearly 20 million units in 2008. Given this shipment potential and the importance of broadband access in the home and small office environments, even modest efficiency improvements have a strong energy savings potential for this product area, and EPA believes there are opportunities to improve the efficiency of these products without impact to the quality of the service they deliver. In addition, implementation of efficient network features has the potential to improve the efficiency of end point devices connected to the network. As such, EPA has drafted the framework document for SNE which is available at: www.energystar.gov/ia/downloads/SNE_Draft_Framework_V1.0.pdf. This document is intended to be a starting point for discussion with interested stakeholders. This document addresses the following topics, on each of which EPA is **seeking your feedback**:

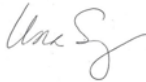
- Definitions of products covered and modes of operation;
- Eligible product types; and

- Energy efficiency factors, features, and test procedures.

EPA invites stakeholders to participate in an initial web meeting to discuss this framework document on **November 19 at 12PM, Eastern Standard Time**. Web meeting details and RSVP information will be provided in a future message. This discussion will be important as EPA begins development of a draft of the specification and we hope you can participate. If you wish to be part of this future discussion, please email Networking@energystar.gov to request to be added to the contact list for the SNE program. EPA intends to investigate energy saving opportunities across the full spectrum of network equipment, so an effort to develop a specification for Large Network Equipment will be considered separately in the coming year.

As EPA moves forward with developing a specification for SNE, we will solicit input from all stakeholders on an ongoing basis. Stakeholder participation is critical to developing a meaningful specification and to the overall success of ENERGY STAR. As such, we welcome your input and encourage you to periodically visit the ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov/productdevelopment for important updates. Please also feel free to contact me at (202) 343-9024 or song.una@epa.gov with any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



Una Song EPA Product Manager
ENERGY STAR for Office Equipment and Consumer Electronics