

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 16, 2015

Dear Set-top Box Equipment Manufacturer, Service Provider or Other Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) welcomes your feedback on this Draft 1 ENERGY STAR Version 5 specification for set-top boxes (STBs). With this revision, EPA aims to ensure that the ENERGY STAR mark continues to recognize true leadership in STB energy efficiency. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and EPA are also revisiting the test method, which will be released as part of a separate announcement, shortly. A brief summary of the key elements of this Draft 1 specification are highlighted below.

Base Allowances: As the efficiency across all base types has improved and Cable STB manufacturers are shipping models without CableCARD, EPA proposes to set a single base allowance of 40kWh/yr for all STBs that connect to a Multichannel Video Program Distributors (MVPD) network and address any differences through functional adders, addressed immediately below. To encourage continuing improvements in the energy performance of Thin Clients to include near term implementation of aggressive power management strategies, for example Deep Sleep, EPA proposes a base allowance of 7kWh/year.

Functional Adders: To determine each functional adder value, EPA assembled a dataset of 138 current models from the ENERGY STAR certified product list and supplemented with models publicly reported by service providers under the VA. The combination of base and adder allowances presented across all STB types in Draft 1 allows a varied selection of products across the different base types and functionalities to qualify. EPA will post the supporting dataset prior to the webinar.

EPA proposes that the CableCARD adder can be applied twice and has removed instructions on applying the multi-stream and DOCSIS 2 allowance as both have been set to 0 kWh. To continue to encourage movement to DOCSIS 3, EPA proposes to continue to offer an adder for this functionality under V5 rather than sunsetting this allowance at the close of 2015 as finalized in V4.1. EPA intends to communicate this update broadly to stakeholders in the coming weeks. Finally, EPA has added a definition and adder for transcoding recognizing the additional system requirements to perform this function.

DC Power: EPA has added definitions aligned with those of the ENERGY STAR V7 Program Requirements for Displays to this Draft 1, for DC powered STBs.

EPA will also host a webinar to discuss this Draft 1 specification on **December 9 from 12:00–2:00 pm Eastern Time. Please [RSVP](#) by November 25.** EPA will share a registration link with attendees. The Agency welcomes **comments on this Draft 1 submitted to stbs@energystar.gov by December 18, 2015.**

I look forward to working with you to refine this ENERGY STAR STB specification. Please direct any specific questions to me at kaplan.katharine@epa.gov or 202-343-9120, or Matt Malinowski, ICF International, at matt.malinowski@icfi.com or 202-862-2693. Please direct any questions regarding ENERGY STAR testing of STBs to Jeremy Dommu, US DOE, at jeremy.dommu@ee.doe.gov or 202-586-9870.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katharine Kaplan".

Katharine Kaplan
Manager, ENERGY STAR Product Development and Program Administration