

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

March 31, 2017

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Set-top Box Partner or Other Interested Stakeholder:

With this letter, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing to amend the ENERGY STAR Set-top Box (STB) specification to allow for the certification of STBs with Mesh Networking.

As you know, the Version 5.0 specification became effective for STBs other than Thin Clients on January 1, 2017, setting aggressive new energy efficiency requirements that will offer more than 30 percent or 21 kWh/yr energy savings beyond conventional products. Twenty six models have already been certified to the new specification! Further, new requirements for Thin Clients will be effective January 1, 2018, requiring the use of Deep Sleep and paving the way toward implementation of low power sleep modes in other STBs in the near future.

Discussion with stakeholders has brought to our attention Mesh Networking, a new STB feature that may have energy savings and convenience benefits. Mesh Networking delivers both video and data wirelessly around the house using Thin Client STBs without the need for separate products such as Wi-Fi-video adapters or repeaters. However, as written, the Version 5.0 definitions will not accommodate this new feature.

EPA is, therefore, proposing to incorporate the following changes to allow products with Mesh Networking to certify to ENERGY STAR:

- **Add a New Mesh Networking Definition as follows:** The capability to extend the Wireless Access Network (WAN) throughout a customer's premises through a decentralized, point-to-point network.
- **Update Router Definition:** to indicate the Router functionality includes Mesh Networking, defined above.
- **Update Applicability of Router Adder Allowance:** EPA is proposing to maintain the Router adder allowance at 15 kWh for the expanded Router functionality, but allow it to apply to Thin Clients, which are precluded from using it under Version 5.0.

Please e-mail any feedback on these proposed changes to STBs@energystar.gov by **April 28, 2017**. All comments received will be posted to the ENERGY STAR Product Development website, unless the submitter specifically requests otherwise. After the review of stakeholder comments, EPA intends to finalize these changes as a Version 5.1 specification.

Due to the modest nature of the proposed changes, EPA has not scheduled a stakeholder webinar. Should stakeholders wish to have a virtual meeting to discuss these changes, EPA can make arrangements accordingly. To track EPA's progress in revising the specification for STBs, visit the ENERGY STAR Product Development web site at www.energystar.gov/RevisedSpecs. Please direct any specific questions to Katharine Kaplan, EPA, at kaplan.katharine@epa.gov or Matt Malinowski, ICF, at matt.malinowski@icf.com. Thank you for your continued support of ENERGY STAR.

Kind regards,

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

Katharine Kaplan
Manager, ENERGY STAR Product Development and Program Administration