



**Department of Energy**  
Washington, DC 20585

May 19, 2014

Dear ENERGY STAR Computer Workstation Manufacturers:

The U.S. Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program (FEMP) is reaching out about an issue, on which you may wish to take action, regarding requirements for procurement of workstations by Federal agencies. Below please find a description of the issue and a solution that FEMP is implementing. You may wish to take advantage of the solution if it is in your interest.

**Issue Description**

FEMP has become aware that some computer workstations configured with a particular processor chip set and with Wake-on-LAN (WOL) functionality enabled may not meet FEMP's standby power requirement of one watt or less. Federal agencies are required to purchase products that meet FEMP's standby power requirement, unless an agency certifies that a functional need cannot be met with such a product.

For easy reference by Federal procurement personnel, FEMP maintains a list of workstation models meeting the standby power requirement. The list has traditionally displayed the standby power level for a single WOL configuration (either WOL enabled or WOL disabled, but not both). FEMP obtains data on standby power from ENERGY STAR, and because products must qualify for ENERGY STAR in their as-shipped configuration, ENERGY STAR data provides the standby power level for only the as-shipped WOL configuration.

The difference between an as-shipped configuration of WOL-enabled and an as-shipped configuration of WOL-disabled can mean the difference between meeting the standby power requirement and not meeting the standby power requirement. In other words, it can mean the difference between an OEM being able to sell a workstation to a Federal agency and not being able to sell the workstation to a Federal agency. However, a workstation's WOL configuration is not unalterable; WOL functionality is turned on or off with relative ease by an OEM or an agency's system administrator, and can be done so to meet the functional needs of the agency. Therefore, a standby power rating for a single WOL configuration is an insufficient representation of what is ultimately an adjustable configuration. FEMP does not wish for some OEMs to be disadvantaged in selling their workstations to Federal agencies due to listing of a single standby power level for a single WOL configuration.

**Solution**

To address this issue, OEMs may submit directly to FEMP both the standby power level of a workstation with WOL disabled and the standby power level of the workstation with WOL



enabled. Submissions may be sent to [fempstandbypower@ee.doe.gov](mailto:fempstandbypower@ee.doe.gov). FEMP will include in its low standby power product listing both the standby power level with WOL disabled and the standby power level with WOL enabled.

Agency procurement personnel will be able to see the standby power levels for both configurations and determine which configuration is needed for the agency's functional requirements. An agency will still not be able to procure a workstation whose standby power exceeds the FEMP requirement of one watt or less, unless the agency certifies that its functional requirements necessitate procuring a workstation configuration with a higher standby power level.

FEMP will monitor the industry's advancements in reducing standby power for workstations with WOL enabled to gauge when standby power of one watt or less becomes common for this configuration and listing of two distinct standby power levels is no longer warranted.

If you have any questions or concerns about the issue and solution discussed above, please do not hesitate to contact me. However, kindly remember that submissions of standby power levels should be sent to [fempstandbypower@ee.doe.gov](mailto:fempstandbypower@ee.doe.gov) rather than to me.

Sincerely,



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