

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



OFFICE OF
AIR AND RADIATION

November 22, 2011

Dear ENERGY STAR[®] Climate Control Stakeholders, Usability Test Labs, and Other Interested Parties,

The purpose of this message is to notify stakeholders that the Request for Proposal (RFP) distributed to Climate Control stakeholders on August 15th, 2011 has been withdrawn. EPA will now serve as the primary agency supporting test procedure development.

In the coming weeks, in lieu of round robin testing under the withdrawn RFP, EPA will invite labs to participate in a round robin testing effort. This testing is critical for the Residential Climate Controls technical specification development as it will inform EPA as to the inter-lab repeatability of the draft usability criteria and test procedure as well as provide input into the draft-final criteria and test procedure. Success of the Residential Climate Controls specification is dependent upon usability criteria and test procedures capable of reliably differentiating highly usable products with an acceptable degree of inter-laboratory repeatability.

As discussed in the Remote Interfaces webinar on November 2nd, it is expected that laboratories who chose to participate in this testing program will be well positioned to attain ISO 17025 accreditation and become recognized to perform Residential Climate Control qualification testing.

EPA is further engaging in dialog with accreditation bodies, certification bodies and test labs in an effort to lay the groundwork for a smooth transition to 3rd party product certification to the final ENERGY STAR Residential Climate Controls specification.

In mid-December, EPA will host a call for labs and other interested stakeholders to introduce the ENERGY STAR 3rd Party (product) Certification process as well as the necessary steps for a usability test lab to become EPA recognized.

In late December/early January, EPA intends to release the Draft 3, Version 1.0 Residential Climate Controls specification, incorporate changes to the Draft 2 specification as well as revised

usability and remote interface criteria. At that time, EPA will also release a new version of the usability test procedure, to be used in the round robin.

Thank you for your support of the ENERGY STAR program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abigail Daken". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Abigail Daken
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Climate Protection Partnerships Division
ENERGY STAR Program