Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

November 7, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALEXANDER A. KARSNER
ASSISTANT SECRETARY
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

FROM: DAVID E. RODGERS
DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ENERGY EFFICIENCY
OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT
ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

SUBJECT: ACTION: Approval of the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) to Accompany the Final Rule for Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces and Boilers (RIN 1904-AA78)

ISSUE: The Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) have been prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Final Rule titled, "Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces and Boilers," and will be placed in the rule docket concurrent to the publication of the Final Rule in the Federal Register.

BACKGROUND:

- DOE has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required, and that the Department should issue this FONSI as part of its Final Rule for Residential Furnaces and Boilers.
- DOE prepared this residential furnace and boiler EA pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA)(42 U.S.C. 4371 *et seq.*), the regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality under Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508, and the Department's regulations for compliance with NEPA under Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations Part 1021.
- DOE has determined that the adoption of energy efficiency Trial Standard Level TSL A for residential furnaces and boilers, as adopted by the Final Rule entitled the ''Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces and Boilers,'' would not be a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA.
- The EA has been prepared as part of the rule Technical Support Document, and based on the EA we are issuing a FONSI.

SENSITIVITIES: None.

Printed with soy ink on recycled paper

POLICY IMPACT: None.

URGENCY: The Court has ordered DOE to submit the furnace and boiler final rule to the Federal Register on or before November 8, 2007. This FONSI must be entered into the docket concurrent with the submission of the final rule.

RECOMMENDATION: That you sign the attached FONSI for the residential furnace and boiler final rule.

CONCURRENCE: GC-72/Warren Belmar, 11/6/07
NCO/Othalene J. Lawrence, 11/2/07

Attachment

Approve: _____

Disapprove: _____

Date: 11/7/07

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Finding of No Significant Impact: Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact for Amended Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces and Boilers.

SUMMARY: Title III of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6291 et seq.), prescribes energy conservation standards for certain major household appliances, and requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to administer an energy conservation program for these products. Based on an Environmental Assessment (EA), DOE/ EA–1530, and revisions to the EA as documented in Appendix W of the Residential Furnaces and Boilers Technical Support Document (TSD), DOE has determined that the energy efficiency levels of Trial Standard Level (TSL) A for residential furnaces and boilers, as adopted by the Final Rule entitled the "Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces and Boilers," is not a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4371 et seq.). Therefore, an environmental impact

statement (EIS) is not required, and the Department is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

ADDRESSES: *Public Availability:* Copies of the EA and the TSD are available from: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 1J-018 (Resource Room of the Building Technologies Program), 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121, (202) 586–2945.[to be updated]

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mohammed Khan, Project Manager, Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces and Boilers, U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Building Technologies Program, EE–2J, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585– 0121, (202) 586–7892, email: Mohammed.Khan@ee.doe.gov.

For further information regarding the DOE NEPA process contact: Othalene Lawrence, EERE NEPA Compliance Officer (EE-3C), U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585–0119, (202) 586-8596.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is the establishment of a revised energy conservation standard (TSL A) for residential furnaces and boilers.

Environmental Impacts: The EA and TSD evaluate the environmental impacts of a range of new energy conservation standards for residential furnaces and boilers. The results are presented for each potential trial standard level. Each potential trial standard level is an alternative action, and the environmental impacts of each alternative are compared to what would be expected to happen if no new standard were adopted, i.e., the ''no action'' alternative.

The main environmental impact under the proposed action is decreased emissions from fossil fuel use and from fossil-fueled electricity generation. All of the minimum efficiency levels considered for furnaces and boilers in this rulemaking would result in decreased fossil fuel use and in a reduction in emissions. The efficiency standards of the proposed action are estimated to generally decrease air pollution by decreasing future energy demand. The environmental analysis considers two pollutants, nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and sulfur dioxide (SO_2), and one emission, carbon dioxide (CO_2). The energy savings from residential furnace and boiler standards projected to occur under the proposed action are estimated to result in reduced power sector emissions of CO_2 and NO_x, and reduced household emissions of CO_2, NO_x, and SO_2. Reduced NO_x emissions could also provide an economic benefit in the form of emission allowance credits. The results of the analysis show an estimated cumulative reduction of 7.8 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions, 9.2 thousand tons NO_x, and 1.8 thousand tons of SO_2 for TSL A through the year 2038.

Determination

Based upon the EA, DOE has determined that the adoption of the proposed energy efficiency standard for residential furnaces and boilers would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, an EIS is not required, and the Department is issuing this FONSI.

Issued in Washington, DC, on

Alexander A. Karsner
Assistant Secretary
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy