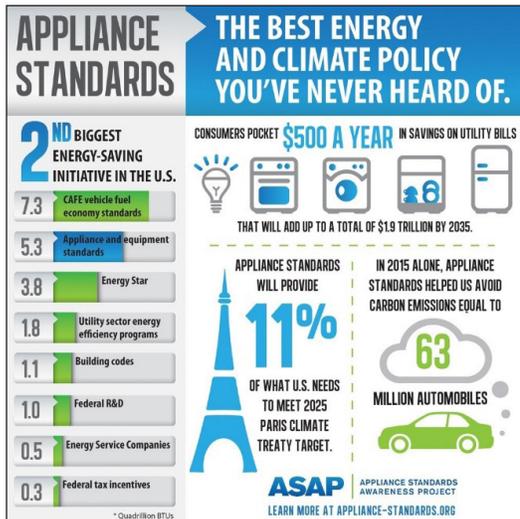


FACT SHEET

DOE'S PLANNED EFFICIENCY STANDARDS PROCESS CHANGES WILL HURT U.S. BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS

The national energy efficiency standards program run by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has been saving U.S. businesses and homes nearly \$2 trillion on utility bills and avoiding millions of tons of carbon emissions since it was established in 1987. Without the standards, every U.S. household would be paying, on average, an extra \$500 per year in utility bills. Standards help ensure a minimum level of efficiency, cut energy waste, create jobs, encourage innovation, help U.S. manufacturers remain competitive, and reduce pollution. Unfortunately, the DOE is now proposing to change its “process rule” that provides internal guidance for setting future standards—making it more difficult to establish them for all appliances and equipment.



Energy efficiency standards are among the nation’s most successful energy policies and have earned well-deserved bipartisan support. The law requires that they be established and updated on a regular

basis. But now the DOE wants to add extra steps to the rulemaking procedures and set an arbitrary threshold of energy savings that new or updated standards must meet (meaning lost potential energy savings and increased carbon pollution). DOE’s changes would also put the fox in charge of the henhouse when it comes to developing the procedures for how to measure the efficiency of appliances and equipment.

Proposed Additional Steps Include:

- More reviews before the agency decides to set a standard
- Higher hurdles a proposed standard must pass for consideration

PROPOSED ARBITRARY SAVINGS THRESHOLD

The DOE is proposing a threshold that standards must meet to be considered “significant” enough to establish or update: either 0.5 quads, or a 10 percent improvement in efficiency, over 30 years. However, small savings add up. If this threshold had been in place originally, the United States could have missed out on more than **4 quadrillion Btus (4 quads) of energy savings** for products like room air conditioners and commercial clothes washers. For context, that’s equivalent to the annual energy use of 44 million homes. A restrictive threshold is completely contrary to what is needed to avoid the worst impacts of climate change.

PROPOSED TEST PROCEDURE CHANGES

The DOE now wants to finalize test procedures at least 180 days prior to the publication of a proposed new or amended standard, which offers the DOE less flexibility and makes the test procedure development process vulnerable to gaming, delaying the development of standards indefinitely. The DOE also wants to adopt, without modification, industry test procedures, with limited exceptions, removing one of the department’s most important powers and put it in the hands of the industry it is tasked to regulate.

Unfortunately, industry has a long history of slow-walking updates to the test methods they help develop. For example, the test method for clothes dryers still uses small, thin polyester squares rather than real clothing, resulting in dramatically underreported energy use. And TV manufacturers have failed to update the test clip even though some have exploited the flawed version since 2016, reporting lower energy use levels than the TV user will experience.

While incremental improvements should always be considered and implemented as the law permits, make no mistake. This proposal is all about one thing: slowing down and blocking future standards.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Make your objections known via a formal comment to the DOE by May 6. For more information, see www.energy.gov/eere/buildings/process-rule

For more information, please contact:

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