

[6450-01-P]

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

10 CFR Part 430

[Docket Number: EERE-2011-BT-STD-0047]

RIN 1904-AC56

Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Heating Equipment

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

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact: Energy Conservation Program

SUMMARY: The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), as amended, requires the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to adopt energy conservation standards for various consumer products and certain commercial and industrial equipment, including direct heating equipment. (42 U.S.C. 6291 *et seq.*) Based on an Environmental Assessment (EA), which has been placed in the docket for this rulemaking, DOE has determined that the adoption of amended energy conservation standards for direct heating equipment, as contained in the final rule titled the “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Heating Equipment,” would not be a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Therefore, an environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required, and DOE is issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

ADDRESSES: Public Availability: Copies of the Environmental Assessment are available from the U.S. Department of Energy, Resource Room of the Building Technologies Program, 950 L'Enfant Plaza, SW., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20024, (202) 586-2945, between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also obtain copies of the Environmental Assessment from the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's website at:

www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Mohammed Khan, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Building Technologies Program, EE-2J, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585-0121. Telephone: (202) 586-7892. E-mail: Mohammed.Khan@ee.doe.gov.

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For further information regarding the DOE NEPA process, contact: Ms. Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-20), U.S. Department

of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20585. Telephone: (202) 586-4600, or leave a message at (800) 472-2756. Additional information regarding DOE NEPA activities and access to many DOE NEPA documents are available on the Internet through the DOE NEPA website at: <http://www.gc.energy.gov/nepa/>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of the Regulatory Action: The regulatory action is the establishment of amended energy conservation standards for direct heating equipment. DOE is amending its definition of “vented hearth heater” to modify the exclusion criteria for products that are primarily decorative in nature to be exempt from the standards for gas hearth direct heating equipment. Of particular relevance, DOE is adopting as one of the criteria for exclusion that the product must not be equipped with a continuously-burning ignition source, effectively eliminating the use of standing pilot lights in decorative hearth products.


Environmental Impacts: The EA evaluates the environmental impacts of amending energy conservation standards for direct heating equipment. This assessment, which has been placed in the docket for this rulemaking, includes an examination of the potential effects of emission reductions likely to result from the rule in the context of global climate change, as well as other types of environmental impacts. The environmental impact results are compared to what would be expected to happen if no new or amended standard were adopted (i.e., the “no action” alternative).

The primary environmental impact is decreased emissions from fossil fuel use. The energy conservation standards adopted in the final rule would generally decrease air pollution by decreasing future energy demand. The environmental impact analysis considers emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x). The estimated additional cumulative CO₂ and NO_x emissions reductions for these amendments to the energy conservation standards are 0.79 million metric tons (Mt) for CO₂ and 0.63 thousand metric tons (kt) for NO_x. DOE found that the environmental effects associated with the amended standards for direct heating equipment are not significant.

Determination

Based upon the EA, DOE has determined that the adoption of the amended energy conservation standards for direct heating equipment 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 DOE is issuing this FONSI.

Issued in Washington, DC, on November 8, 2011.



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