

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

10 CFR Part 430

[Docket Number: EERE-2007-BT-STD-0010]

RIN: 1904-AA89

Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Dryers and Room Air Conditioners

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

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI): Energy Conservation Program

SUMMARY: The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), as amended, requires the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to consider amended energy conservation standards for residential clothes dryers and room air conditioners. (42 U.S.C. 6291 et seq.) Based on an Environmental Assessment (EA), chapter 15 of the direct final rule technical support document (TSD) for residential clothes dryers and room air conditioners, DOE has determined that the adoption of energy conservation standards for residential clothes dryers and room air conditioners, as contained in the direct final rule entitled the “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Clothes Dryers and Room Air Conditioners,” 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 FONSI.

ADDRESSES: Public Availability: Copies of the direct final rule TSD are available from the U.S. Department of Energy, Resource Room of the Building Technologies Program, 950 L'Enfant Plaza, S.W., 6th Floor, Washington, DC 20024, (202) 586-2945, between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. You may also obtain copies of the direct final rule TSD from the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's website at: www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Stephen L. Witkowski, U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Building Technologies Program, EE-2J, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585-0121. Telephone: (202) 586-7463. E-mail: Stephen.Witkowski@ee.doe.gov.

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For further information regarding the DOE NEPA process contact: Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-54), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, DC 20585, (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://energy.gov/nepa/doe-nepa-documents>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of the Action: The action is the establishment of amended energy conservation standards for residential clothes dryers and room air conditioners. DOE is adopting trial standard level (TSL) 4.

Environmental Impacts: The EA evaluates the environmental impacts of a range of energy conservation standards for residential clothes dryers and room air conditioners. The results are presented for each TSL DOE considered for residential clothes dryers and room air conditioners. Each TSL is an alternative action and the environmental impacts of each alternative are compared to what would be expected to happen if no amended standard were adopted, *i.e.*, the “no action” alternative.


The primary environmental impact is decreased emissions from fossil fuel use and from fossil-fueled electricity generation. All of the TSLs considered for the product classes covered under this regulation would result in decreased fossil fuel use and in a reduction in emissions. The energy conservation standards adopted in the direct final rule would generally decrease air pollution by decreasing future energy demand. The environmental impact analysis considers emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and three criteria pollutants—nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and mercury (Hg). The energy savings from amended energy conservation standards for residential clothes

dryers and room air conditioners are expected to result in reduced power sector emissions of CO₂, NO_x, and Hg. Reduced NO_x emissions could also provide an economic benefit in the form of emission allowance credits. The results of this analysis show that the cumulative emissions reductions resulting from the residential clothes dryers and room air conditioners direct final rule are projected to be 36.1 million metric tons (Mt) of CO₂, 29.3 kilotons (kt) of NO_x, and 0.073 tons of Hg. These emissions reductions and those from the other TSLs are not substantial enough to significantly affect the quality of the human environment. See chapter 15 of the residential clothes dryers and room air conditioners TSD Table 15.7.1 for more information on the emissions reductions at all TSLs.

Determination

Based upon the EA, DOE has determined that the adoption of the energy conservation standards for residential clothes dryers and room air conditioners 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 August 18, 2011.

 8/18/11

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Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy