

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

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Notice of Pre-Rulemaking Schedule

Schedule

The California Energy Commission has initiated an ongoing process to identify, study, and realize appliance efficiency opportunities to conserve important state resources: electricity, natural gas, and water. The importance of these efforts are especially apparent in 2014. After two consecutive dry years and record-breaking dry conditions Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. declared a drought State of Emergency in January. California is now in a three-year drought period. The state is experiencing less total rainfall, less snowpack in the mountains and earlier snowmelt. Not only does this mean less water, but also less hydroelectric production of electricity.

To address these needs, the Commission has refined the 26 categories identified in its Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) and prioritized them based on water and energy savings potential. The decision was informed through a combination of staff expertise and open (public) solicitation for ideas.

To facilitate and maximize meaningful stakeholder participation, the Commission is providing the following schedule with expected release dates of draft regulations for the refined list of products.

| Category | Draft Regulations Released |
|--|----------------------------|
| Faucets, Toilets, Urinals | April 2014 |
| Air Filters, Dimming Ballasts | April 2014 |
| LED lamps, MR lamps | May 2014 |
| Pool Pump motors*, Portable electric spas* | August 2014 |
| Computers, Monitors, and Displays | November 2014 |
| Network Equipment* | February 2015 |
| Game Consoles | February 2015 |
| Commercial Clothes Dryers* | February 2015 |

*The schedule for these products may be revised based on feedback received in response to the Energy Commission's request for additional information.¹

¹ http://www.energy.ca.gov/appliances/2013rulemaking/documents/2014-01-15_webinar/2014-01-15_Staff_Presentation.pdf

Benefits

The regulations that the Appliance Efficiency Program develops are cost-effective to the consumer such that a more efficient appliance provides a net fiscal benefit to consumers. Further, the program's energy and water conserving regulations yield reduced greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions, improved environmental quality, and enhance supply reliability.

The Commission has prioritized a subset of these categories due to their impressive savings potential:

- Reduced water consumption of 50 billion gallons per year (5 billion gallons from toilets and urinals and 45 billion gallons from faucets)²
- Peak electricity reduction of 1,400 megawatts
- Energy savings of 9,800 gigawatt-hours per year
- Natural gas savings of 162 million therms per year

The total value of resource savings (water, natural gas, and electricity) is an estimated \$2 billion per year. The figures above are subject to change based on the stringency of proposed standards and will be refined with new information, data, and input as the process proceeds.

What to Expect With the Release of Draft Regulations

A staff report and public workshop will accompany each release of draft regulations. Staff reports will contain the detailed rationale, analysis, consideration of alternatives, and proposed regulatory language. Interested stakeholders will be provided with a public comment period to respond to the draft proposals. In addition, a public workshop will be provided as a forum to discuss the proposals in person.

Proceeding's History

The Commission engaged stakeholders in 2013 in a two-stage information gathering process to ensure that its rulemaking is based on the most up-to-date data. First, interested parties were asked for foundational sales, performance, and technology information. The results were shared publicly through an "Invitation to Participate." The Commission then asked stakeholders to make recommendations for improved appliance efficiency based on the submitted information in a "Request for Proposals."

In 2012, the OIR set forth initial prioritizations in a three-phase approach. The Commission has used the information gathered in 2013 to further refine schedules and prioritization of phase 1 topics, and is now actively working on standards development for a subset of appliances.

Contacts

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² Toilets and Urinal standards are partially a matter of conformity, aligning with AB 715 (2007) that requires reduced water use in these products. Water savings are attributable to increased compliance with that bill as a result of adopting regulations.