

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

10 CFR Parts 429 and 431

[EERE-2016-BT-STD-0004]

RIN 1904-AD61 and 1904-AD77

Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure and Energy Conservation Standards for Circulator Pumps and Small Vertical In-Line Pumps

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

ACTION: Request for information; extension of public comment period.

SUMMARY: On May 7, 2021, the U.S. Department of Energy (“DOE”) published a request for information (“RFI”) restarting rulemaking activities to consider potential test procedures and energy conservation standards for circulator pumps and small vertical in-line pumps. The notification provided an opportunity for submitting written comments, data, and information by July 6, 2021. DOE received requests from Grundfos, the Hydraulic Institute (“HI”), and Taco, Inc. on May 7, 2021, May 10, 2021, and May 14, 2021, respectively, asking DOE to extend the public comment period until August 30, 2021. Additionally, DOE received a request from Xylem Inc. to extend the comment period until September 30, 2021. On May 14, 2021, HI sent a follow-up request providing more information on why an extension is necessary. DOE has reviewed these requests and is granting an extension of the public comment period to allow public comments to be submitted until July 30, 2021.

DATES: The comment period for the RFI published on May 7, 2021 (86 FR 24516) is extended. DOE will accept comments, data, and information regarding this RFI received no later than July 30, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Interested persons are encouraged to submit comments using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <https://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments.

Alternatively, interested persons may submit comments by email to the following address: Pumps2020TP0032@ee.doe.gov. Include “Circulator Pumps RFI” and docket number EERE-2016-BT-STD-0004 and/or RIN number 1904-AD61 in the subject line of the message. Submit electronic comments in WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, PDF, or ASCII file format, and the use of special characters or any form of encryption. No telefacsimilies (“faxes”) will be accepted.

Although DOE has routinely accepted public comment submissions through a variety of mechanisms, including postal mail and hand delivery/courier, the Department has found it necessary to make temporary modifications to the comment submission process in light of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. DOE is currently accepting only electronic submissions at this time. If a commenter finds that this change poses an undue hardship, please contact Appliance Standards Program staff at (202) 586-1445 to discuss the need for alternative arrangements. Once the Covid-19 pandemic health emergency is resolved, DOE anticipates resuming all of its regular options for public comment submission, including postal mail and hand delivery/courier.

Docket: The docket for this activity, which includes **Federal Register** notices, comments, and other supporting documents/materials, is available for review at www.regulations.gov. All documents in the docket are listed in the www.regulations.gov index. However, some documents listed in the index, such as those containing information that is exempt from public disclosure, may not be publicly available.

The docket web page can be found at: www.regulations.gov/docket/EERE-2016-BT-STD-0004. The docket web page contains instructions on how to access all documents, including public comments, in the docket.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Jeremy Domm, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Building Technologies Office, EE-2J, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121. Telephone: (202) 586-9870. Email: ApplianceStandardsQuestions@ee.doe.gov.

Ms. Amelia Whiting, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of the General Counsel, GC-33, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121. Telephone: (202) 586-2588. Email: Amelia.Whiting@hq.doe.gov.

For further information on how to submit a comment or review other public comments and the docket contact the Appliance and Equipment Standards Program staff at (202) 287-1445 or by email: ApplianceStandardsQuestions@ee.doe.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On May 7, 2021, DOE published an RFI seeking data and information regarding development and evaluation of new test procedures that would be reasonably designed to produce test results which reflect energy use during a representative average use cycle for the equipment without being unduly burdensome to conduct. Additionally, the RFI solicited information regarding the development and evaluation of potential new energy conservation standards for circulator pumps and small vertical in-line pumps, and whether such standards would result in significant energy savings and be technologically feasible and economically justified. 86 FR 24516, 24516. Interested parties in the matter, Grundfos (on May 7, 2021), HI (on May 10, 2021), Xylem Inc. (on May 11, 2021), and Taco, Inc. (on May 14, 2021), requested an extension of the public comment period for the RFI. (Grundfos, No. 105 at p. 1; HI, No. 106 at p. 1; Xylem Inc., No. 107, at p. 1; Taco, Inc., No. 108, at p. 1).¹ Grundfos, HI, Xylem Inc., and Taco, Inc. commented that the July 6, 2021 deadline is insufficient to collect the data and information requested because the pump industry is already tasked with responding to a separate RFI on Commercial and Industrial pumps in which comments are due on July 1, 2021. (Grundfos, No. 105 at p. 1; HI, No. 106 at p. 1; Xylem Inc., No. 107 at p. 1; Taco, Inc., No. 108 at p. 1) HI submitted a subsequent request on May 14, 2021 further

¹ The parenthetical reference provides a reference for information located in DOE’s rulemaking docket. (Docket No. EERE-2016-BT-STD-0004, which is maintained at www.regulations.gov/#/docketDetail;D=EERE-2016-BT-STD-0004). The references are arranged as follows: (Commenter name, comment docket ID number, page of that document).

detailing the reasons that necessitate the extension request. (HI, No. 109, page 1.).

DOE has reviewed the requests and is extending the comment period to allow additional time for interested parties to submit comments. As noted, the RFI was issued as part of the preliminary stages of rulemaking to consider amendments to the test procedure and energy conservation standards for circulator pumps and vertical in-line pumps. If DOE determines that amended test procedures and/or energy conservation standards may be appropriate, additional notifications will be published (e.g., a notice of proposed rulemaking) providing interested parties with an additional opportunity to submit comment. As such, DOE has determined that an extension until the end of July is sufficient for this preliminary stage. Therefore, DOE is extending the comment period to July 30, 2021.

Signing Authority

This document of the Department of Energy was signed on May 18, 2021, by Kelly Speakes-Backman, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary and Acting Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, pursuant to delegated authority from the Secretary of Energy. That document with the original signature and date is maintained by DOE. For administrative purposes only, and in compliance with requirements of the Office of the Federal Register, the undersigned DOE Federal Register Liaison Officer has been authorized to sign and submit the document in electronic format for publication, as an official document of the Department of Energy. This administrative process in no way alters the legal effect of this document upon publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed in Washington, DC, on May 19, 2021.

Treana V. Garrett,

Federal Register Liaison Officer, U.S. Department of Energy.

[FR Doc. 2021-10883 Filed 5-25-21; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

34 CFR Chapter VI

[Docket ID ED-2021-OPE-0077]

Negotiated Rulemaking Committee; Public Hearings

AGENCY: Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education.

ACTION: Intent to establish negotiated rulemaking committees.

SUMMARY: We announce our intention to establish negotiated rulemaking committees to prepare proposed regulations for programs authorized under title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). The Department is committed to advancing equitable outcomes for all students and invites comments from organizations or groups with interests that are significantly affected by the subject matter of the proposed regulations being considered by the particular committee. We also announce public hearings at which interested parties may comment on the topics for regulation suggested by the Department and suggest additional topics that should be considered for action by the negotiating committees. In addition, we announce that the Department will accept written comments on the topics suggested by the Department and suggestions for additional topics that should be considered for action by the negotiating committees.

DATES: The dates, times, and locations of the public hearings are listed under the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this document. We must receive written comments on the topics for regulation suggested by the Department and additional topics that should be considered for action by the negotiating committees on or before July 1, 2021.

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments through the Federal eRulemaking Portal or via postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery. We will not accept comments by fax. To ensure that we do not receive duplicate copies, please submit your comments only once. In addition, please include the Docket ID at the top of your comments.

- *Federal eRulemaking Portal:* Go to www.regulations.gov to submit your comments electronically. Information on using *Regulations.gov*, including instructions for accessing agency documents, submitting comments, and viewing the docket, is available on the site under “FAQ.”

- *Postal Mail, Commercial Delivery, or Hand Delivery:* If you mail or deliver your comments, address them to Vanessa Gomez, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Room 2C179, Washington, DC 20202.

Privacy Note: The Department’s policy is to make all comments received from members of the public (including those comments submitted by postal mail, commercial delivery, or hand delivery) available for public viewing in their entirety on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at www.regulations.gov. Therefore, commenters should be careful to

include in their comments only information that they wish to make publicly available.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: For information about negotiated rulemaking in general, see *The Negotiated Rulemaking Process for Title IV Regulations, Frequently Asked Questions* at: www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/reg/hearulemaking/hea08/neg-reg-faq.html. For information about the public hearings, or for additional information about negotiated rulemaking, contact: Vanessa Gomez, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave. SW, Room 2C179, Washington, DC 20202. Telephone: (202) 453-6708. Email: vanessa.gomez@ed.gov.

If you use a telecommunications device for the deaf (TDD) or text telephone (TTY), call the Federal Relay Service (FRS), toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 492 of the HEA requires that, before publishing any proposed regulations to implement programs authorized under title IV of the HEA, the Secretary obtain public involvement in the development of the proposed regulations. After obtaining advice and recommendations from the public, the Secretary conducts negotiated rulemaking to develop the proposed regulations. We announce our intent to develop proposed title IV regulations by following the negotiated rulemaking procedures in section 492 of the HEA.

We intend to select participants for the negotiated rulemaking committees from nominees of the organizations and groups that represent the interests significantly affected by the proposed regulations. To the extent possible, we will select from the nominees individual negotiators who reflect the diversity among program participants.

We intend to convene multiple committees to develop proposed regulations on the affordability of postsecondary education, institutional accountability, and Federal student loans. Each committee will be comprised of a unique set of negotiators. The public will be made aware of the schedule and topics of each committee meeting in subsequent **Federal Register** notice(s).

Regulatory Issues

The Department suggests the following topics for regulation:

(1) Change of ownership and change in control of institutions of higher education under 34 CFR 600.31;