

[6450-01-P]

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

10 CFR Part 430

[Docket Number EERE-2007-BT-STD-0016]

RIN 1904-AB50

Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Fluorescent Lamp

Ballasts

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 of 1975 (EPCA), as amended, prescribes energy conservation standards for various consumer products and certain commercial and industrial equipment, including fluorescent lamp ballasts (hereafter referred to as ballasts). EPCA also requires the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to determine whether more-stringent standards would be technologically feasible and economically justified, and would save a significant amount of energy. Based on an environmental assessment (EA), chapter 16 of the final rule technical support document (TSD) for ballasts, DOE has determined that the adoption of energy conservation standards for ballasts, as set forth in the final rule titled the “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts,” 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: The docket for this rulemaking is available for review at www.regulations.gov, including Federal Register notices, framework documents, public meeting attendee lists and transcripts, comments, and other supporting documents/materials. All documents in the docket are listed in the www.regulations.gov index. However, not all documents listed in the index may be publicly available, such as information that is exempt from public disclosure.

A link to the docket web page can be found at:

www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/residential/fluorescent_lamp_ballasts.html

. The regulations.gov web page will contain instructions on how to access all documents, including public comments, in the docket.

For further information on how to review the docket, contact Ms. Brenda Edwards at (202) 586-2945 or by email: Brenda.Edwards@ee.doe.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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For further information regarding the DOE NEPA process, contact Carol M. Borgstrom, Director, Office of NEPA Policy and Compliance (GC-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., 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: www.gc.energy.gov/nepa/.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Description of the Proposed Action: The proposed action is the establishment of new and amended energy conservation standards for ballasts, for which DOE is adopting trial standard level (TSL) 3A.

Environmental Impacts: The EA evaluates the environmental impacts of a range of energy conservation standards for ballasts. The results are presented for each TSL that DOE considered for ballasts. Each TSL is an alternative action and the environmental impact of each alternative is compared to what would be expected to happen if no new 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 ballasts covered under this regulation would result in decreased fossil fuel use and in a reduction in emissions. The energy conservation standards adopted in the final rule would generally decrease air pollution by decreasing future energy demand. The EA addresses emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and three criteria pollutants: nitrogen oxides (NO_x), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), and mercury (Hg). The energy savings from new energy conservation standards for ballasts 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 DOE’s analysis show that the cumulative emissions reductions resulting from the ballasts final rule are projected to be 27–106 million metric tons of CO₂, 22–39 thousand tons of NO_x, and 0.40–1.47 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. For more information on the emissions reductions at all TSLs, see chapter 16 of the ballasts final rule TSD, available at: www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/residential/fluorescent_lamp_ballasts_final_rule_tsd.html.

Determination

Based on the EA, DOE has determined that the adoption of the energy conservation standards for ballasts 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
October 20, 2011.



Henry Kelly
Acting Assistant Secretary of Energy
Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy