



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Supplemental Proposed Rulemaking for Energy Conservation Standards for Residential Furnaces (RIN: 1904-AD20)

Program or Field Office: EERE- Buildings Technology Program

Location(s) (City/County/State): Nationwide

Proposed Action Description:

In this Supplemental Proposed Rulemaking, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) proposes energy conservation standards for residential furnaces. This proposed rulemaking only applies to residential non-weatherized gas furnaces and mobile home gas furnaces. These proposed standards, if adopted, would apply to all products listed in Table I.1 and Table I.2 of the Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rule, and manufactured in, or imported into, the United States on or after the date 5 years after the publication of the final rule for this rulemaking.

It is anticipated that the proposed rulemaking would result in cumulative emission reductions in the project area (that is across the United States), over a 30 year period, of 143 million metric tons (Mt) of carbon dioxide (CO₂), 687 thousand tons of nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and 2,777 thousand tons of methane (CH₄). It is also anticipated that the proposed rulemaking, due to projected switching from non-weatherized gas furnaces to electric heat pumps and electric furnaces, would result in emission increases of 76.8 thousand tons of sulfur dioxide (SO₂), 1.07 thousand tons of nitrous oxide (N₂O), and 0.3 tons of mercury (Hg). DOE has analyzed these increases and has determined that the increases are not significant and would not have a significant impact on human health or the environment.

DOE has determined that the proposed rulemaking is appropriate for a Categorical Exclusion under B5.1(b) as the proposed rulemaking establishes energy conservation standards and none of the exclusions of that section apply. Specifically, the proposed rulemaking would not: (1) have the potential to cause a significant change in manufacturing infrastructure and specifically in the manufacturing infrastructure for residential furnaces; (2) involve significant unresolved conflict concerning uses of available resources; (3) have the potential to result in a significant increase of materials posing significant risk to human health; and, (4) have the potential to cause a significant increase in energy consumption in a state or region.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B5.1 - Actions to conserve energy or water

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

- ✓ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.
- ✓ To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.
- ✓ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.
- ✓ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:
Lisa Jorgensen

Date Determined:

9/2/2016