DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

office of Conservation and Renewable Energy

10 CFR Part 430

Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products

AGENCY: Department of Energy.

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on Proposed Rulemaking for Energy Conservation Standards for 3 Types of Consumer Products.

SUMMARY: The Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), as amended by the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (NECPA) and the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA), prescribes energy conservation standards for certain major household appliances, and requires the Department of Energy (DOE) to administer an energy conservation program for these products. As a general matter, these Federal standards preempt State and local standards and any other State and local requirements with respect to energy efficiency or energy use of these products. Among other things, NAECA requires DOE to consider amending the energy conservation standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers; to establish standards for small gas furnaces; and to consider establishing energy conservation standards for television sets.

In accordance with NAECA, the Department has reviewed possible standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers and freezers, small gas furnaces and television sets as discussed in today's notice of proposed rulemaking.

For refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers and freezers, the Department is proposing a range of standards that includes not increasing the stringency of the standard level. DOE is soliciting comments and information from the public to be considered in promulgating the final rule. As discussed in the proposed rule, the final rule will specify a specific level for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers and freezers.

For small gas furnaces, the Department is proposing to determine that standards would result in a significant conservation of energy and be economically justified. Therefore, the Department is today proposing to amend 10 CFR Part 430 to add standards for this product.

Finally, for television sets, the Department is proposing to determine that an energy conservation standard would result in a significant conservation of energy but would not be economically justified. Therefore, the Department is proposing to amend Part 430 to include a determination of no standard for television sets.

Based on an Environmental Assessment (EA), DOE has determined that none of the proposed standards, including the "no standard" for television sets, are a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared. The EA is part of the Technical Support Document for the proposed standards and is available on request at the following address.

Public availability: Hearings and Dockets Branch, Office of Conservation and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy, Docket

CE-RM-87-102, 1000 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 6B-025, ington, DC 20585 (202) 586-9320.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: DOE prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed standards pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Pub. L. 91-190, 40 U.S.C. 4221 et seq, and the implementing regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality [40 CFR Parts 1500-1808]. The EA addresses the possible incremental environmental effects attributable to the application of the proposed standards to the design of refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers; and small gas furnaces. The EA also looked at the impact of energy conservation standards for television sets. As discussed in the General Findings, the "no standard" standard for televisions will not change the status quo and therefore will not result in any environmental impact. The effect of

standards range from no change to a slight improvement in environment as discussed in the General Findings below.

Approach Used in The Analysis.

This assessment evaluates the environmental impacts resulting from the proposed setting of new or amended energy-efficiency standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, freezers, and small gas furnaces and the proposed setting of no standards for television sets in accordance with the NAECA. A complete description of the Engineering and Economic Analysis of the proposed standards may be found in the Technical Support Document (TSD).

The two main environmental concerns addressed are emissions from fossil fuel fired electricity generation and the chlorofluorocarbons used in the production of rigid insulation foam.

Four of the fourteen scenarios for product design changes described in the Engineering Analysis of the TSD were chosen for study based on their relative importance as design measures. Values for energy savings that result from product design changes are also taken from the TSD.

An in-depth analysis of particulate emissions is not included in this assessment because particulate emissions are relatively small compared to sulfur and nitrogen oxide emissions. Current electricity generating methods are far cleaner than those of the past. In 1984, power plants contributed only 7 percent of U.S. total particulate emissions as compared to contributions of 83 percent and 34 percent to total SO_2 and NO_2 emissions, respectively (EPA, 1986).

indings.

. Refrigerators, Refrigerator-Freezers and Freezers.

The proposed standards for refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers range from retaining the federally mandated standards contained in NAECA, up to three more stringent standards. The greatest impacts of the proposed standards, other than the minimum NAECA standards, are the result of generating less electricity. Power plants' main environmental effects on air and water result from emissions of sulfur oxides (SO_x), nitrogen oxides (NO_x), and carbon dioxide (CO_2). All SO_x and NO_x emissions are expressed in the equivalent weights of SO_2 and NO_2, respectively. Carbon dioxide emissions are commonly expressed as tons of carbon. Additionally, there would be some shifting of CFC use. General findings are summarized below:

A. Sulfur Dioxide.

The greatest decrease in air pollution will occur for sulfur dioxide. The possible reductions range from no change up to 151,000 tons or 0.9 percent of the U.S. SO_2 emissions expected to be emitted by power plants by the year 2010 for the most stringent standard proposed.1/

B. Nitrogen Dioxide.

The possible reductions in NO_2 range from no change up to

1/ The upper levels are interpolated from data in Table 5.8 of the Technical Support Document for energy savings and Tables 1,2,5, and 6 of the Environmental Assessment for pollutant reductions. The interpolation is made between standard level 1 (engineering level 3) and standard level 4 (engineering level 8).

tons or 1.0 percent of the total NO_2 emissions expected to be ed by power plants by the year 2010 for the most stringent ndard proposed.2/

C. Carbon Dioxide.

The possible reductions in CO_2 range from no change up to the equivalent of 9,180,000 tons or 0.2 percent of the worldwide CO_2 emissions for the year 2010 for the most stringent standard proposed.3/

D. Chlorofluorocarbons.

An additional effect of some design change scenarios is an increased consumption of CFC's. CFC-11 is contained in the rigid foam insulation used in the appliances and CFC-12 is the heat exchange fluid used in refrigerators and freezers. The possible increased use ranges from no change to one percent of the 1985 total United States CFC-11 and CFC-12 consumption for the most stringent standards proposed. However, since CFC production has been limited, any extra consumption would have to come from other uses and would not result in a net increase in CFC production.

None of the environmental impacts from the savings of SO_2, NO_2, or CO_2 from the range of proposed standards are considered to be significant.

2/ ibid.

3/ ibid.

2. Small Gas Furnaces.

The greatest impact of the proposed standard for small gas furnaces is a decrease in electricity consumption as some households shift from electric heating to small gas furnaces and decreases in gas and oil burned in homes. General findings are summarized below:

A. Sulfur Dioxide.

The reduction in SO_2 would be 6800 tons or 4.2 percent of the emissions estimated to come from residential fuel combustion during 2010.

B. Nitrogen Dioxide

The reduction in NO_2 would be 5100 tons or 1.3 percent of the emissions estimated to come from residential fuel combustion during 2010.

C. Carbon Dioxide

The reduction in CO_2 would be equivalent to 569,000 tons of carbon or .01 percent of the worldwide CO_2 emissions for the year 2010.

None of the environmental impacts from the savings of SO_2, NO_2, or CO_2 from the proposed standard are considered to be significant.

3. Television Sets.

The proposed "no standard" standard for television sets results in no impact on the environment since it will not change the status quo. DOE is unaware of any State or local energy conservation standards concerning television sets that would be preempted by the "no standard" standard. The only state standard for television sets

ch DOE is aware is the New York State standard that bans the tant-on" feature of tube type televisions. However, since tube pe television sets are no longer manufactured, such standards rrently have no effect.

termination.

Based upon the EA, DOE has determined that the proposed interim andards do not constitute a major federal action significantly fecting the quality of the human environment, within the meaning of PA. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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Assistant Secretary
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a. Environmental Review

DOE prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed standards pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Pub. L. 91-190, 40 U.S.C. 4221 et seq., and the implementing regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500 through 1808). The EA addresses the possible incremental environmental effects attributable to the application of the proposed standards to the design of three types of covered products: refrigerators, refrigerator-freezers, and freezers; small gas furnaces; and television sets.

A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is published in today's Federal Register. The FONSI concludes that the proposed standards would result in no significant environmental impacts and that an environmental impact statement is not required.

The EA is part of the Technical Support Document and is available at the DOE Freedom of Information Reading Room at the address provided at the beginning of this notice.

this was in the NOPR