COMMENTS OF THE RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP
APPLIANCE STANDARDS AWARENESS PROJECT,
AND NORTHEAST ENERGY EFFICIENCY PARTNERSHIPS
May 12, 2006

Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission
Rules and Regulations Establishing Minimum Efficiency Standards For Certain New Products Sold in the State of Rhode Island
Docket NO. 3731

The Rhode Island Public Interest Research Group (RIPIRG), Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP) and the Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships (NEEP) offer these comments in response to the Rhode Island Public Utilities Commission proposed Rules and Regulation for Certain New Products Sold in the State of Rhode Island. As strong supporters of the recent legislation that instituted appliance efficiency standards in Rhode Island, we are very pleased that Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has moved expeditiously to implement the legislation.

We strongly support the proposed rules and regulations. We fully support the general approach taken by the PUC with these regulations. As required by statute, the regulations include all enacted Rhode Island product energy efficiency standards. Importantly, by specifically including those standards which will be preempted by the federal Energy Policy Act of 2005 (enacted subsequent to Rhode Island law), Rhode Island provides an important backstop to protect against repeal of the federal standards. In addition, we applaud the fact that the PUC is incorporating the regulations that the State Energy Office is required to adopt. Combining the two sets of rules in one document is a common sense way to simplify the regulations. However, we suggest a handful of changes below.

1. The regulations should include the written out standard for external power supplies and not just the reference.
2. The standard for metal halide lamp fixtures should be clarified to close a potential loophole.
3. Minor editorial corrections should be made to the proposed text in the chart describing test methods

1. The regulations should include the written out standard for external power supplies and not just the reference.

As a general policy, the PUC should explicitly write out all the standards included in the statute and not just include the references. There are two reasons to do this.

- Having the actual standard in the regulations instead of the reference makes it easier for manufacturers and other interested parties to know the actual standards they must comply with. Otherwise, they have to go search out other documents.

- The underlying standards included in the reference could change. Both Energy Star and the California Energy Commission (CEC) regularly update and/or supersede their

standards. These modifications could be as minor as a change to table number or as significant as increasing the stringency or scope. For example, the Rhode Island standard for single voltage external AC to DC power supplies references the CEC standard in Table U-1 of the California Regulations as of December 2004. On July 1, 2008, Table U-2 will become the California standards, and, quite likely, Table U-1 will be deleted from the CEC regulations. When Table U-1 disappears, stakeholders could be easily confused by a reference to a California standard which no longer exists. They also could have considerable difficulty finding the 2004 version of the California regulations to determine the actual technical standard for Rhode Island.

The general policy should be to have all the efficiency standards written out and not simply referenced. However, we do not think it necessary to include the full, written-out technical standards in those cases where a Rhode Island requirement will be preempted by federal law prior to Rhode Island implementation. Four of the Rhode Island standards will not be preempted by federal standards prior to implementation. Of the four, only the one for external power supplies is based on a reference. Therefore, to ensure the maximum amount of clarity and avoid confusion in the future, the regulations should include the following chart, copied form the December 2004 California regulations, at the end of Part V (10). The phrase, "*as shown in the table below"* should be added before the period in the first sentence in Part V (a) (10) to refer the reader to this table.

Standards for Single Voltage External AC to DC Power Supplies

Nameplate Output	Minimum Efficiency in Active Mode
0 to <1 Watt	0.49* Nameplate Output
>1 and ≤ 49 Watts	0.09 * Ln(Nameplate Output) + 0.49
> 49 Watts	0.84
	Maximum Energy Consumption in No-Load Mode
0 to <10 Watts	0.5 Watts
≥10 to ≤ 250 Watts	0.75 Watts
Where Ln(Nameplate Output) = Natural Logarithm of the nameplate output expressed in Watts	

2. The standards for metal halide lamp fixtures should be clarified to close a potential loophole.

The standard for metal halide lamp fixtures covers only those fixtures that "operate in the vertical" position. There are two types of metal halide lamps which can operate in a vertical position; those which are specifically designed and marketed for vertical applications and those which are designed and marketed to operate in any position, known as "universal" position lamps. The regulations should make it clear that any fixture capable of operating in a vertical position is covered, including universal position fixtures. If universal position fixtures are not

explicitly covered, a loophole would be created, enabling manufacturer to sell low-efficiency universal fixtures for use in vertical applications.

We recommend the adding the following sentence at the end of Part V (a) (9). "Universal position fixtures and any other fixture designed to operate in a vertical position are covered by this standard."

3. Minor editorial corrections should be made to the proposed to the text in the chart describing test methods:

Following are some minor editorial comments to the text of the chart that describes the proposed test methods in Part VIII (a). Deleted words and phrases will be signified by a cross-out line and any additional words or letters will be in bold.

Product	Test Method
Automatic Ice Maker**s**	Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute Standard 810-2003
Commercial Clothes Washers	~~Use~~ **Test method shall be test method** ~~standard~~ specified in 10 CFR Section 430.23(j) (Appendix J1 to Subpart B of Part 430)
Commercial Pre Rinse Spray Valves	**Test method shall be the** "Standard Test Method for Pre-Rinsed Spray Valves" from the American Society for Testing and Materials Standard F2324
Commercial Refrigerators	Test ~~M~~**m**ethod shall be American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 117-2002 " Method of Testing Closed Refrigerators" (ANSI Approved)
High Intensity Discharge Lamp**s** Ballasts	No test method required as this is a prescriptive standard
Illuminated Exit Signs	Test ~~M~~**m**ethod **shall be the method** included under Version 2.0 of Energy Star program **for Exit Signs** of the Environmental Protection Agency
Large Packaged Air Conditioning Equipment	Test ~~M~~**m**ethod ~~S~~**s**hall be Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Institute Standard 340/360-2000- "Commercial and Industrial Unitary Air Conditioning and Heating Equipment" (ANSI Approved)
Low Voltage Dry Type Distribution Transformers	Test ~~M~~**m**ethod shall be ~~based on~~ the "Standard Test Method for Measuring the Energy Consumption of Distribution Transformers" prescribed by the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA Standard TP-2-2005)
Metal Halide Lamp Fixtures	No test method required as this is a prescriptive standard
Single Voltage External AC to DC Power Supplies	~~Use the~~ **Test method shall be the method** ~~test methodology~~ specified in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's "Energy Star Program Requirements for Single Voltage External Ac-Dc and Ac-Ac Power Supplies" as in effect on January 1, 2005 EXCEPT products do not have to be tested at 230 volts.
Torchiere Lamps	No test method for fixtures. For bulb, **the test method shall be** ~~use~~ Illuminating Engineering Society (IES)LM-45
Traffic Signals	Test ~~M~~ **m**ethod **shall be the** ~~based~~ on method described in Energy Star Program of the Environmental Protection Agency for traffic signal modules in effect as of August 1, 2005.
Unit Heaters	No test method required ~~A~~**a**s this is a prescriptive standard

Thank you for considering these comments. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we may be of any further assistance. We look forward to continue working with PUC as the agency implements these important energy-saving standards.

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