

Small Electric Motors

Supplementary Information:

The Department of Energy (Department) makes available for public comment a draft analysis concerning whether energy conservation standards for certain small electric motors would be technologically feasible, economically justified and would result in significant energy savings. The Department solicits comments, data and information concerning the draft analysis. This draft analysis makes no recommendation concerning what, if any, determination should be made or whether standards should be promulgated for certain small electric motors.

Under section 346(b)(1) of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (EPCA), 42 U.S.C. 6317(b)(1), the Department may determine whether energy conservation standards for certain small electric motors would be technologically feasible, economically justified, and would result in significant energy savings. If the Department makes a positive determination, then it must prescribe testing requirements and energy conservation standards for the covered small electric motors. In order to make the determination under EPCA, the Department has conducted an analysis of small motors and prepared a report detailing its analysis. A draft copy of the Department's report, entitled "Analysis of Energy Conservation Standards for Small Electric Motors," is available on the World Wide Web at the address provided below.

The Department's methodology for this analysis consisted of five major elements: market research into the uses for small motors; engineering analysis of different design options; life-cycle cost and benefits from increased efficiency; potential energy savings on a national scale; and potential direct economic costs and benefits to consumers on a national scale. In addition, the Department conducted actual testing of sample motors, and did motor costing analysis using a method similar to those methods commonly used by motor manufacturers.

The Department's analysis to date indicates a range of potential energy savings, both for single-phase and polyphase small motors, if the Department establishes energy conservation standards for these motors. The ranges of results can be attributed to differences between the information and data which the Department generated and which the manufacturers provided, such as differences between estimates of the efficiency and costs associated with design options, as well as to uncertain future trends in motor sales and efficiency. Resolution of the differences between the Department's and the manufacturers' analyses requires more information. These differences will need to be resolved before the Department makes a determination under EPCA section 346(b)(1).

The Department is interested in receiving comments and data concerning all aspects of the analysis and data in the draft report. The Department particularly requests comments and data concerning whether the costs associated with the efficiency improvements are accurately characterized, and concerning potential energy savings from motor design options.

Finally, this analysis makes no recommendation concerning the determination that DOE should make or whether DOE should promulgate standards. Rather, DOE will use the technical analysis

to consider the statutory requirements which DOE will address when it issues its determination.

Procedures for Submitting Comments:

DATE: Comments submitted by electronic mail will be considered timely if they are submitted by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern time) September 5, 2003. Comments submitted on paper through the United States mail or other delivery service should contain a signed original and must be received at the Department of Energy by September 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: The draft "Analysis of Energy Conservation Standards for Small Electric Motors," June 2003, may be viewed on the World Wide Web at http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/appliance_standards/commercial/small_motors.html. Also, a copy is available in the Department of Energy Freedom of Information Reading Room, U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, 20585-0101, telephone (202) 586-3142, between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays.

The Department encourages the submission of comments, data and information electronically to the following Internet address: smallmotors.analysis@ee.doe.gov. Submit electronic comments as a WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF, or ASCII format file and avoid the use of special characters or any form of encryption. Identify comments in electronic format by the docket number EE-DET-02-002 and, wherever possible, include the electronic signature of the author. Comments submitted electronically without an electronic signature must be followed and authenticated by submitting the signed original paper document. No telefacsimiles (telexes) will be accepted.

Submit written comments filed on paper to: Ms. Brenda Edwards-Jones, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Building Technologies, EE-2J, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585-0121. Comments filed on paper should be identified by the docket number EE-DET-02-002. Please submit one signed original and a computer diskette or compact disc (CD) in WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Adobe PDF or ASCII file format.

For Further Information Contact:

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