



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
WATER

November 19, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense® program was designed to make it easy for Americans to save water and protect the environment. This fall, WaterSense is releasing a draft specification for weather-based irrigation controllers, the first irrigation product to be eligible for the WaterSense label.

There are more than 13.5 million irrigation systems currently installed in the United States, with approximately 300,000 new systems installed each year. Installing new or replacing existing standard clock timer controllers with WaterSense labeled irrigation controllers will offer a significant opportunity for water savings.

The purpose of this letter is to request your feedback regarding the WaterSense Draft Specification for Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers. EPA will accept written comments and plans to hold two public meetings, one in person and one via a teleconference call, to discuss the draft specification.

**Earning the WaterSense Label for Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers**

The attached draft specification provides the criteria that a weather-based irrigation controller will need to meet in order to be certified and labeled under the WaterSense program. The specification is designed to ensure both sustainable, efficient use of water and a high level of performance.

EPA will review all comments and provide a consolidated response. Once the specification is then finalized, products can be submitted for certification and labeling according to the WaterSense certification system. This independent third-party certification process is described on the WaterSense Web site at [www.epa.gov/watersense/specs/certification.htm](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/specs/certification.htm). EPA held a webinar in 2008 to describe the certification system to weather-based controller manufacturers and has introduced these manufacturers to WaterSense licensed certifying bodies.

Manufacturers, retailers, and distributors that produce or sell weather-based irrigation controllers will be able to join the program as WaterSense partners once EPA has processed and reviewed public comments. EPA will notify all interested parties when the program is open for partnership before the release of the final specification, in order to allow manufacturers, retailers, and distributors to plan for the release and promotion of labeled products.

## **Providing Input on the Draft Specification**

EPA welcomes your input on the WaterSense Draft Specification for Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specification, which may be downloaded at [www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/controltech\\_overview.htm](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/controltech_overview.htm), and provide written comments by January 18, 2010. Written comments should be directed to [watersense-products@erg.com](mailto:watersense-products@erg.com). All comments become a part of the public record.

EPA will host a teleconference and webinar with stakeholders to discuss the draft specification on December 16, 2009, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. In addition, EPA will hold an in-person meeting with stakeholders on December 4, 2009, from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Central time, at the Irrigation Show 2009 held in the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. Details regarding registration for both public meetings may be found on the WaterSense Web site, [www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/controltech\\_overview.htm](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/controltech_overview.htm).

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Tanner at (202) 564-2660 or [tanner.stephanie@epa.gov](mailto:tanner.stephanie@epa.gov), or the WaterSense Helpline at (866) 987-7367 or [watersense@epa.gov](mailto:watersense@epa.gov). We look forward to receiving your feedback on the specification, as well as your organization's participation in WaterSense.

Sincerely,



Veronica Blette  
Acting Chief  
WaterSense Branch