



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

OFFICE OF  
WATER

September 24, 2009

Dear Interested Party:

In 2006, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) launched WaterSense<sup>®</sup>, its voluntary partnership program that seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water-efficient products, services, and programs. EPA's WaterSense program aims to change the way the American public and businesses think about water efficiency and water-using products.

This fall, WaterSense is releasing a draft specification for showerheads, which, together with the existing specifications for tank-type toilets and bathroom sink faucets, will round out the suite of residential bathroom plumbing products eligible for the WaterSense label. There are more than 220 million showerheads currently in use in the United States, with approximately 24 million new showerheads sold each year. Replacing these standard showerheads with WaterSense labeled models offers a significant opportunity for water use savings.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of and ask for your feedback regarding the WaterSense Draft Specification for Showerheads. EPA will accept written comments and hold a public meeting via a telephone conference call to discuss stakeholder comments.

#### **Earning the WaterSense Label for Showerheads**

The attached WaterSense Draft Specification for Showerheads provides the criteria that a showerhead will need to meet in order to be certified and labeled under the WaterSense program. The specification is designed to ensure both sustainable, efficient water use and a high level of user satisfaction with showerhead performance.

With the announcement of this draft specification, manufacturers, retailers, and distributors that produce or sell showerheads are welcome to join the program. Following the close of the comment period, EPA will review all comments, and provide a consolidated response. The specification will then be finalized, and products can be submitted for certification and labeling.

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

EPA welcomes your input on the WaterSense Draft Specification for Showerheads. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specification and provide written comments by November 9, 2009. Written comments should be directed to [watersense-products@epa.gov](mailto:watersense-products@epa.gov). All comments become a part of the public record.

On October 21, 2009, EPA plans to hold a telephone conference to discuss the draft specification with all stakeholders who would like to provide comments in that forum. The meeting will take place from 1:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Eastern time. Details regarding meeting registration may be found on the WaterSense Web site, <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/showerheads.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 with WaterSense.

Sincerely,



Veronica Blette  
Acting Chief  
WaterSense Branch