



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

February 8, 2007

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently launched a voluntary water efficiency program, WaterSense[®], that seeks to protect the future of our nation's water supply by promoting water efficiency and enhancing the market for water-efficient products and programs. EPA's WaterSense Program seeks to change the way the American public and businesses think about water efficiency and make decisions regarding water use and water using products.

A majority of residential indoor water use occurs in the bathroom, therefore, the EPA WaterSense Program is focusing its initial efforts on a suite of water-efficient indoor plumbing products that can be used alone or in concert to achieve substantial water savings. The EPA WaterSense Program recently released a specification for certification and labeling of high-efficiency toilets and now is centering its attention on bathroom sink faucets. Faucets account for more than 15 percent of total indoor water use, therefore, high-efficiency bathroom sink faucets offer the opportunity to achieve significant water use savings.

At this time, EPA is establishing criteria to certify high-efficiency, high-performing bathroom sink faucets or faucet accessories¹ eligible to be labeled under the EPA WaterSense Program. Product certification, together with broad education/outreach campaigns and partnerships with key stakeholders will transform the marketplace and make water-efficient products the clear and preferred choice among consumers and organizations.

The purpose of this letter is to make you aware of and ask for your feedback regarding the draft High-Efficiency Bathroom Sink Faucet Specification under the WaterSense Program. EPA will accept written comments and hold a public meeting via a telephone conference call to discuss stakeholder comments. Following the comment period, EPA will make any necessary revisions to the certification criteria, publish the final specification, and allow manufacturers to begin the certification process.

Earning EPA's WaterSense Program Recognition for High-Efficiency Bathroom Sink Faucets

The attached High-Efficiency Bathroom Sink Faucet Specification provides the criteria that a bathroom sink faucet or faucet accessory 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 bathroom sink faucet performance.

The EPA WaterSense Program label will apply to all types of bathroom sink faucets, bathroom sink faucet accessories specifically designed to control the flow of water, and any other lavatory faucet technologies that meet the requirements of the High-Efficiency Bathroom Sink Faucet Specification.

¹ Accessory means a component that can, at the discretion of the user, be readily added, removed, or replaced, and that, when removed, will not prevent the fitting from fulfilling its primary function. For the purpose of this specification, an accessory can include, but is not limited to faucet flow restrictors, flow regulators, aerator devices, laminar devices, and pressure compensating devices.

Providing Input on the Draft Specifications

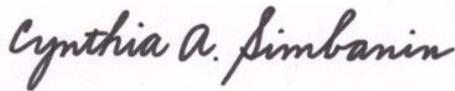
EPA welcomes your input on the draft High-Efficiency Bathroom Sink Faucet Specification. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specification and provide written comments by March 23, 2007. Written comments should be directed to watersense_faucets@epa.gov. All comments become a part of the public record.

On March 1, 2007, EPA plans to hold a telephone conference to discuss comments on the draft High-Efficiency Bathroom Sink Faucet Specification with all stakeholders that would like to provide comments in that forum. The meeting will take place from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. Eastern Time (ET). To register for the meeting, please go to www.epa.gov/watersense/register.htm, and submit the registration information by February 26, 2007. At the time of registration, EPA will provide registration confirmation. Prior to the telephone conference, EPA will provide registered participants with a call-in number and password, and any other information needed for the meeting.

With the announcement of this draft specification, manufacturers and retailers and distributors that produce or sell these water-efficient plumbing fixtures 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.

If you have questions about the program, please contact Stephanie Tanner at (202) 564-2660 or tanner.stephanie@epa.gov. We look forward to receiving your feedback on the specification, as well as your organization's participation with EPA's WaterSense Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia A. Simbanin". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Cynthia A. Simbanin
WaterSense Program Manager