EPA WaterSense

Draft High-Efficiency Bathroom Sink Faucet Specification

Public Meeting

March 1, 2007

Meeting Agenda

- Overview of WaterSense
- Draft High-Efficiency Bathroom Sink Faucet Specification
  - Draft specification overview
  - Comments on draft specification
  - Comments on supporting statement
- Certification and Labeling
  - Certification and labeling overview
  - Program Guidelines
- Next Steps

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Part 1:
WaterSense Overview

WaterSense Overview
Need for Water Efficiency

Water shortages expected in 36 states

Consumers looking for ways to save on rising utility bills

WaterSense
Meets EPA Criteria
SM

High-performing technology available

Opportunity to change practices—up to 50% of water used in our yards is wasted

Water efficiency has potential for significant infrastructure savings

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WaterSense Overview
Vision & Mission

Vision

Create an ethic of water efficiency.

Mission

To promote the value of water and help Americans make smart decisions regarding water use and water-using products.

Transform the marketplace by encouraging consumers and organizations to purchase water-efficient products and services.

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WaterSense Overview Philosophy

- Products labeled through WaterSense will:
  - Be backed by the credibility of the U.S. EPA
  - Be promoted through partnerships with utilities, manufacturers and retailers
- To be considered for the label, a product area must be able to:
  - Realize water savings on national level
  - Perform as well or better than their less efficient counterparts
  - Be about 20% more efficient than conventional counterparts
  - Achieve water efficiency through several technology options
  - Be effectively differentiated by the WaterSense label
  - Be independently verified by a third party to confirm that the product meets EPA criteria for efficiency and performance
  - Provide measurable results

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WaterSense Overview
Program Goal & Objectives

- Program Goal:
  - Reduce water and wastewater infrastructure costs and conserve water resources for future generations
- Program Objectives:
  - Raise awareness about the importance of water efficiency
  - Ensure product performance
  - Help consumers differentiate among products and services
  - Promote innovation in product development
  - Support state and local water efficiency efforts

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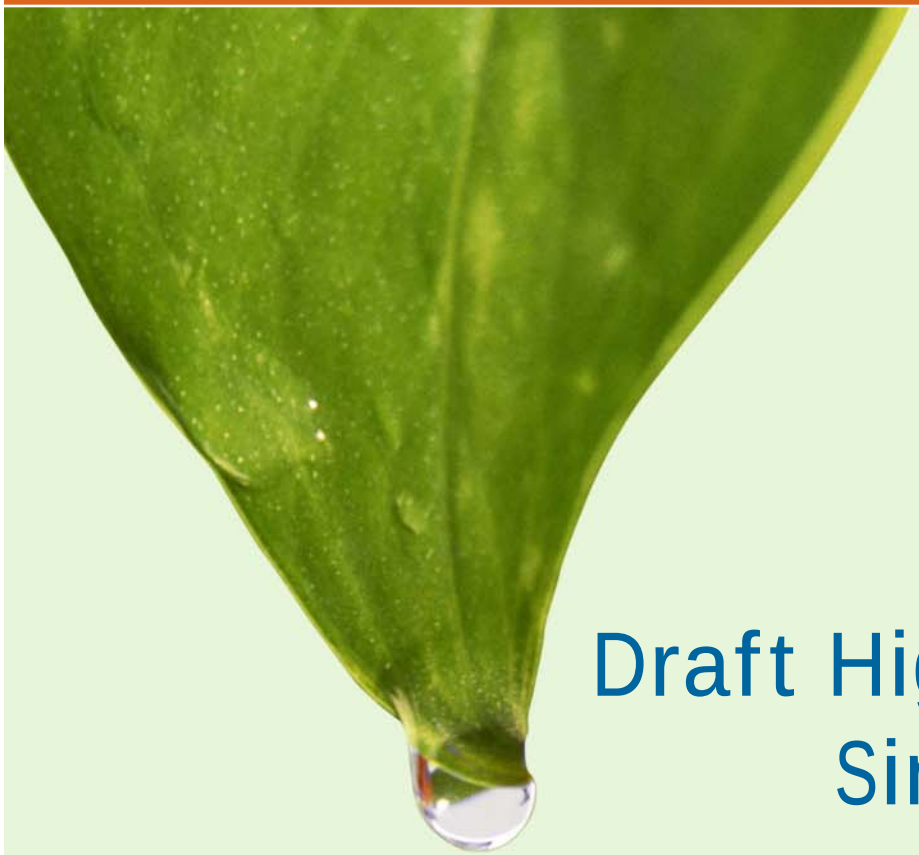

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Part 2:
Draft High Efficiency Bathroom Sink Faucet Specification

Background

- Goals for WaterSense Labeled Bathroom Sink Faucets
  - Ensure sustainable, efficient water use
  - Ensure continued user satisfaction
- Draft specification is based on flow rate testing requirements in ASME A112.18.1
  - Modified maximum target flow rate
  - Added a minimum target flow rate

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Scope and Objective

- Specification establishes criteria for high-efficiency bathroom sink (lavatory) faucets
- Applies to:
  - Lavatory faucets
  - Lavatory faucet accessories (aerators, laminar flow devices, etc.)
  - Other applicable lavatory faucet technology

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Scope and Objective

- Specification does not apply to:
  - kitchen sink faucets
    - Many uses are volume dependent (e.g., pot filling, sink filling)
    - Emerging research and development of multi-position control lever faucets
  - public lavatory faucets
    - Used almost exclusively for hand washing/simple rinsing - greater reduction in flow rate may be appropriate
    - ASME A112.18.1 standard of 0.5 gpm
  - metering faucets
    - ASME A112.18.1 and 10 CFR 430 set standard at 0.25 gal/cycle

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Water Efficiency & Performance Criteria

- To qualify for the WaterSense label, high-efficiency bathroom sink faucets shall
  - Conform to applicable requirements in ASME A112.18.1
  - Have the flow rates tested in accordance with procedures in ASME A112.18.1
  - Meet water efficiency and performance requirements

Water Efficiency & Performance Criteria

- Maximum flow rate shall not exceed 1.5 gpm @ 60 psi
  - 32% reduction in maximum flow rate
  - Consistent with utility sponsored programs
  - Consistent with current ASME testing requirements
  - Faucets meeting specification can be readily brought to market

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Water Efficiency & Performance Criteria

- Flow rate shall not be less than 1.2 gpm @ 20 psi
  - Performance measure to ensure user satisfaction at low water pressures
  - Pressure vs flow curve for a 1.5 gpm pressure compensating aerator converges around 1.2 gpm @ 20 psi
- Flow rate tested at 60 psi shall not vary beyond +/- 0.1 gpm of the certified flow rate

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Questions?

- Draft High-Efficiency Bathroom Sink Faucet Specification
- Supporting Statement
- Other issues, comments, or concerns

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Part 3: Certification and Labeling

Product Certification and Labeling

- All products must be certified by an accredited Product Certification Body (CB) or other organization approved by the Water Sense program
- Manufacturers apply to an approved CB of choice
  - Approved list of CBs posted on WaterSense Web site, www.epa.gov/watersense
- CB certifies product in accordance with WaterSense specification
- CB authorizes manufacturer to use WaterSense label
  - Provides manufacturer with graphic artwork of label
- CB conducts periodic surveillance
  - Factory visits
  - Product retesting
  - Label policing

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Certification Body (CB) Accreditation Process

- CB's will be *accredited* to certify products to WaterSense specifications
  - Accreditation process is under development
  - Draft process released for public input, Spring 2007
  - Anticipated implementation, Spring 2008
- In the interim, CB's are *approved* by EPA
  - Currently ANSI accredited to certify plumbing products
  - Requirements outlined in the program guidelines
  - Approved for each WaterSense specification
    - 5 CB's have been approved for the HET specification
- Licensing Agreement
  - EPA licenses CBs to certify products and authorize use of WaterSense label

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Product Certification

- Benefits
  - Focus EPA resources on marketing and product development
  - EPA is in compliance with National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act (NTTAA)
  - Simplifies records management
  - More rigorous, which is good from a marketing perspective
  - Better policing of label and on-going surveillance of products
  - Faster product approval times and no limit on business relationships
  - Increases consistency in product testing

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Product Certification (Cont'd)

- Issues
  - Might need different process for irrigation products, but any process must meet some general criteria
    - Provide independent, third-party testing
    - Provide ongoing surveillance of the manufacturing process
    - Not be overly burdensome for manufacturers to obtain *or* EPA to administer
    - Provide an appropriate level of assurance to customers that the product meets the WaterSense specifications
  - Most products already undergo some form of certification so costs are incremental

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Certification Body WaterSense Accreditation

- Benefits
  - Ensure CB's have capability and competence to perform WaterSense certifications
  - Ensure uniform minimum certification requirements among CB's
  - Ensure open process for including CB's accredited by different organizations (ANSI, IAS, A2LA)
  - Process open for public input
- Issues
  - Accreditation process cannot begin until final specification is issued

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Part 4:
Next Steps

Next Steps

- Submit written comments to watersense_faucets@erg.com by March 23
- EPA will make public the comments received during the comment period
- Final specification issued after evaluation of public comments
- Anticipated effective date: July 1, 2007

More Information

- WaterSense Information:
  - Web site: www.epa.gov/watersense
  - E-mail: watersense@erg.com
  - Toll-free Helpline: (866) WTR-SENSE

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Every drop counts.