

Proposed Rules

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains notices to the public of the proposed issuance of rules and regulations. The purpose of these notices is to give interested persons an opportunity to participate in the rule making prior to the adoption of the final rules.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

10 CFR Part 437

[Docket No. EE-RM-95-202]

RIN 1904-AA 74

Voluntary Home Energy Rating System Guidelines

AGENCY: Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, U.S. Department of Energy.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking and public hearings.

SUMMARY: Today, the U.S. Department of Energy ("Department" or "DOE") is proposing statutorily required voluntary guidelines for home energy rating systems. The proposed voluntary guidelines are designed to encourage uniformity among systems for rating the annual energy efficiency of new and existing residential buildings. They provide for a uniform rating method; procedures for certification of the technical accuracy of the building energy analysis tools used to determine energy efficiency ratings; training of personnel conducting energy efficiency ratings; data collection and reporting; quality control; and monitoring and evaluation. The voluntary guidelines are intended for use by state and local governments, utilities, builders, real estate agents, lenders, agencies in mortgage markets, and others, to enable and encourage the assignment of energy efficiency ratings to residential buildings and the development of criteria for attractive financial instruments for energy efficient homes.

DATES: Written comments on the proposed rule (10 copies) must be received by the Department by October 23, 1995.

A public hearing will be held on October 2, 1995.

Requests to speak at the public hearing must be received by the Department by 4 pm on or before

September 13, 1995. Ten copies of statement to be given at the public hearing must be received by the Department by 4 pm September 28, 1995.

ADDRESSES: All written comments (10 copies), requests to speak at the public hearing, and requests for the supporting documentation are to be submitted to: Voluntary Residential Energy Efficiency Rating Guidelines, Docket Number EE-RM-95-202, Buildings Division, EE-432, Office of Codes and Standards, U. S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 1J-018, Washington, DC. 20585

The public hearing will begin at 9:00 a.m., and will be held at the following location: Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Room 1E-245 (1st Floor, E Corridor), Washington, D.C. 20585.

Copies of the transcripts of the public hearing, individual oral statements, and the written public comments received may be viewed and/or obtained from the DOE, Freedom of Information Reading Room, Room 1E-190, 1000 Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-6020, 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Robert Mackie, Buildings Division, EE-432, U.S. Department of Energy, Room 1J-018, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-7892

Diana Dean, Office of General Counsel, GC-12, U.S. Department of Energy, Room 6B-231, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, D.C. 20585, (202) 586-7440

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

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 7. Section 437.102: Rating reporting.

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I. Background

A. Statutory Authority

Section 102 of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Pub L. 102-486), amended Title II of the National Energy Conservation Policy Act (Act) by adding sections 271-273 (42 U.S.C. 8236-8236b). Section 271 of the Act directs the Department to issue, by rule, voluntary guidelines that may be used by state and local governments, utilities, builders, real estate agents, lenders, agencies in mortgage markets, and others, to enable and encourage the assignment of energy efficiency ratings to residential buildings. Section 271 requires the Department to consult with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, representatives of existing home energy rating programs, and other appropriate persons. In terms of specified content, section 271 provides that the voluntary guidelines shall:

- (1) encourage uniformity with regard to systems for rating the annual energy efficiency of residential buildings;
- (2) establish protocols and procedures for
 - (A) certification of the technical accuracy of building energy analysis tools used to determine energy efficiency ratings;