**Department of Energy Residential Furnace Standards Rulemaking Summary**

Scope

* Residential non-weatherized gas-fired furnaces and mobile home gas-fired furnaces

Background

* March 1987: Current minimum standard of 78% Annual Fuel Utilization Efficiency (AFUE) adopted by US Congress in National Appliance Energy Conservation Act
* October 2009: Manufacturers and efficiency advocates negotiated an agreement that included an update to the standard by setting three different levels by climate regions
* December 2011: The American Public Gas Association filed a lawsuit objecting to the process used to adopt the standards.
* April 2014: U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit approved a settlement between DOE and the APGA stating that a new DOE rulemaking should be completed by March 2016
* March 2015: DOE released for public review an extensive analysis on the costs and impacts of proposed updated standards

Proposed Standard Update

* Minimum Standard: 92% AFUE from current 78% AFUE (80% AFUE starting 11/2015)
* Effective Date: March 2021 (5 years after Final Rule expected by March 2016)
* Energy Savings: 2.78 quads over 30 years in US

Key Stakeholders

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Stakeholder | Acronym | | Brief Stakeholder Description |
| Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute | AHRI | Trade association representing furnace manufacturers | |
| Alliance to Save Energy | ASE | Energy efficiency advocacy organization | |
| American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy | ACEEE | Energy efficiency non-profit research and education organization | |
| American Gas Association | AGA | Association for natural gas companies | |
| American Public Gas Association | APGA | Association for municipal & community-owned natural gas utilities | |
| Appliance Standards Awareness Project | ASAP | Coalition of efficiency, environmental and consumer advocacy organizations, state government and utilities | |
| California Energy Commission | CEC | California’s energy policy and planning agency | |
| Edison Electric Institute | EEI | National association of investor-owned electric companies | |
| Heating, Air-Conditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International | HARDI | Trade association representing wholesale HVAC distributors | |
| Natural Resources Defense Council | NRDC | Environmental advocate organization | |
| Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships | NEEP | Energy efficiency advocate organization | |
| Pacific Gas and Electric Company | PGE | Large gas and electric utility | |

* Tens of other smaller gas utilities provided comments
* 117 total public comments received by DOE for this docket
* Key organizations that were silent: Southern California Edison and San Diego Gas and Electric

Summary of Key Issues and Stakeholder Positions

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Issue | PG&E Position | Key Supporters of Position | Counter Position | Key Supporters of Counter Position |
| DOE Rulemaking (General) | Support DOE proposed level as cost effective and consider more stringent level | NEEP  ACEEE  …  … | DOE should withdraw rulemaking since analysis is erroneous | SCG  AGA  APGA  AHRI  HARDI |
| Fuel Switching |  |  |  |  |
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