

## Energy Efficiency Advisory

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### DOE Starts Proceeding on Efficiency Standards for External Power Supplies

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As discussed in prior advisories,<sup>1</sup> the Department of Energy (DOE) is continuing its blizzard of activity on energy efficiency pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.<sup>2</sup> The agency has just announced a new proceeding of considerable importance: potential amendments to its efficiency standards for external power supplies (EPSs).<sup>3</sup> An EPS is an external power supply circuit used to convert household electric current into DC current or lower-voltage AC current to operate a consumer product. EPSs are, of course, used for a multitude of products, including computers, routers, modems, phones, printers, video game devices, smart home devices and more.

There are EPS energy efficiency standards currently in place. But DOE will hold a webinar on March 24, 2022, on its preliminary analysis for future EPS standards. The webinar will cover the analytical framework, models, and tools that DOE is using to evaluate potential new standards; the results of DOE's preliminary analyses; the potential standard levels derived from these analyses that DOE could consider for this product should it determine that proposed amendments are necessary; and any other issues relevant to the evaluation of efficiency standards for EPSs.

DOE will accept written comments on EPS standards on or before April 26, 2022.

**Conclusion.** Given the importance of EPSs for a broad array of products—and the steep inflation-adjusted civil penalties for violations of efficiency standards (currently \$503 per unit)—interested parties should take advantage of this opportunity to participate in the EPS proceeding.

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For more information on this subject or Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis LLP's energy practice, please contact [Scott Blake Harris](#), [Stephanie Weiner](#), or [John A. Hodges](#).

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<sup>1</sup> Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis, *HWG Energy Efficiency Updates*,  
<https://www.hwglaw.com/practice/energy/energy-efficiency-update/>.

<sup>2</sup> EPCA, 42 U.S.C.A. § 6291 *et seq.*

<sup>3</sup> DOE, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Energy Conservation Standards for External Power Supplies, Webinar and Availability of the Preliminary Technical Support Document, 87 Fed. Reg. 10719 (Feb. 25, 2022).