



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

OFFICE OF
WATER

January 20, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) WaterSense® program is pleased to announce the release of the *WaterSense Revised Draft Specification for Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers* (revised draft specification). It is EPA's goal with this revised draft specification to recognize and label weather-based irrigation controllers that can deliver a high level of performance, in order to provide a significant step toward increasing water efficiency in landscape irrigation.

The release of this revised draft specification is the result of more than four years of collaboration between EPA and controller manufacturers, water utilities, irrigation industry representatives, and other stakeholders. Since the release of the Notification of Intent in 2007, EPA has held various working groups, conducted independent research, and worked with numerous experts to determine appropriate performance characteristics to ensure labeled products are capable of providing efficient irrigation. In November 2009, WaterSense released its initial draft specification for public comment. In the months since, EPA has carefully considered input from a wide variety of stakeholders with varying view points. This revised draft specification represents a culmination of research, collaboration, and compromise that balances the needs and interests of WaterSense stakeholders and advances EPA's goal to reduce landscape water use.

In addition to the revised draft specification, this release includes a number of supplemental documents that support the specification. These include:

- *Draft Supplemental Guidance for WaterSense Certification and Labeling of Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers*. This document provides information about how the certification process works and will apply to future certification and labeling of weather-based irrigation controllers.
- *Examination of SWAT Protocol Utilizing a Performance Analysis of Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers: Update with Extended Data*. This report describes the results of additional research conducted by the University of Florida since the release of the November 2009 initial draft specification.
- *Performance Test Spreadsheet for Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers*. This spreadsheet program performs calculations required by the test protocol in the revised draft specification.

WaterSense is requesting your feedback on the specification. All interested parties are encouraged to review the revised draft specification and supporting materials, which can be downloaded at <http://www.epa.gov/watersense/partners/controltech.html>. Written

comments should be submitted by March 21, 2011 and be directed to watersense-products@erg.com. All comments become a part of the public record.

EPA will host two webinars with stakeholders to discuss the revised draft specification on February 23, 2011, one from 9 a.m. to noon and another from 1 to 4 p.m. (EST). Details regarding registration for both public meetings can be found on the WaterSense website.

If you have any questions, please contact the WaterSense Helpline at (866) 987-7367 or watersense@epa.gov. We look forward to receiving your feedback on the specification, as well as your organization's participation in the WaterSense program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Veronica Blette".

Veronica Blette, Chief
WaterSense Branch