

Administrative Procedures – Environmental Impact Analysis

Instructions:

In completing the environmental impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated environmental impacts (positive or negative) to be expected from adoption of the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; explains the sufficiency of the environmental impact analysis.

Examples of Environmental Impacts include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on the emission of greenhouse gases
- Impacts on the discharge of pollutants to water
- Impacts on the arability of land
- Impacts on the climate
- Impacts on the flow of water
- Impacts on recreation
- Or other environmental impacts

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Vermont Appliance Efficiency Standards

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Department of Public Service

3. GREENHOUSE GAS: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES (E.G. TRANSPORTATION OF PEOPLE OR GOODS; BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE; LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, WASTE GENERATION, ETC.):*

The improved efficiency of the appliances and equipment covered by the new standards in this rule will result in substantial reductions in greenhouse gas emissions both directly through reduced fuel usage or indirectly through the reduced usage of electricity which is generated in part by the combustion of fossil fuels. Table 2 in Attachment A (Act 139 Energy Savings for Vermont by 2025) summarizes the reductions in fossil fuel and electricity usage by 2025 if this rule is adopted. It is estimated that this rule will save Vermont residents and businesses 59 GWh of electricity annually and 177 billion Btu of fossil fuel usage by 2025.

Environmental Impact Analysis

4. **WATER:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS WATER (E.G. DISCHARGE / ELIMINATION OF POLLUTION INTO VERMONT WATERS, THE FLOW OF WATER IN THE STATE, WATER QUALITY ETC.):*

The improved efficiency of the products and equipment covered by the new standards in this rule will result in substantial reductions in water usage and wastewater discharge for Vermont residential and commercial customers. See Table 3 in Attachment A (Potential Annual Water Savings by 2025 and 2035). It is estimated that the water conservation standards in this rule will save Vermont residents and businesses 437 million gallons of water annually by 2025 and 801 million gallons annually by 2035.

5. **LAND:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS LAND (E.G. IMPACTS ON FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE ETC.):*

N/A

6. **RECREATION:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT RECREATION IN THE STATE:*

N/A

7. **CLIMATE:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE CLIMATE IN THE STATE:*

The rule impacts the climate of Vermont indirectly through reduction of electricity use and fossil fuel combustion which in turn reduce greenhouse gas emissions as discussed in question #3, above.

8. **OTHER:** *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT OTHER ASPECTS OF VERMONT'S ENVIRONMENT:*

N/A

9. **SUFFICIENCY:** *EXPLAIN THE SUFFICIENCY OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS.*

The rule benefits Vermont's environment almost entirely through the reduction of the detrimental effects of the inefficient use of electricity, fossil fuel and water.