



One of the activities the DOE Regulation Committee had watched closely was the result of the 2016 election, and what actions the new administration would take. We now know some of those actions, and thought we'd share them with you.

A very important executive order was issued quickly, and it related to new regulations. There is now a 60 day hold on all regulations that have not been issued. This will allow time for the new administration to review them in detail. Another section of that executive order is that any new regulations being proposed must include a detailed recommendation to cancel two existing regulations.

One other item we learned is that the calculations used in the proposed fan efficiency regulation payback gave results that make this regulation one of the most attractive ever proposed. The calculation takes into account the energy savings, the impact on industry (cost to redesign and re-catalog), impact on customers (fan cost plus installation), effect on building owners (more space required, different fan types), etc. Some of the cost factors appeared to be quite low, and skewed the results. One DOE spokesman basically said that the amount of energy saved in this regulation would justify immediate replacement of nearly all fans in use. The new administration is now forcing all regulators to go back and review their cost/benefit calculations and make adjustments to more heavily weigh the impact on industry and job creation.

Since the last update, we have received the approved spreadsheet that shows what part of the fan curve will be allowed to be sold. Remember, this regulation was designed to force customers to properly select the fan, not to rule certain fan designs out of existence. Nearly all fans will still have applications they can be sold into, but the less efficient fans will have significantly reduced opportunities.

There are still several things we don't know:

- When the rule will be issued, if at all. The review of the proposed rule may or may not stop it, or may just delay it.
- What the target efficiencies will be for each fan type.
- A final definitive list of what fan types will be excluded (the DOE has a list, but some of the terms have not been fully defined).
- Whether the regulation will allow us to catalog our normal static and total efficiencies.

The proposed test standard will be the next event. There will be a comment period and then the rule will be issued in the Federal Register. All fan rating data and catalogs will have to comply within 180 days. The fan industry has asked for an extension to 360 day. That means that whatever the target efficiencies are per fan type, and whatever the metric is, will have to be rolled into all sales and marketing information. New catalog ratings will have to be developed, as well as changes made to fan selection software.

We believe that the new metric will be a ratio of the allowed input power (kW) to the actual input power of the fan/motor/drive combination. Those details, and how to do the calculations, will be part of the test standard. It is still unclear whether the test standard will be affected by the executive orders on regulation review.

We had planned to discuss more of the details of the calculations, and what it means to be a 'fan manufacturer' in this issue. With these new developments, we'll have to take that up next time.

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