



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

OFFICE OF  
WATER

November 17, 2016

Dear Interested Party:

WaterSense® is a voluntary partnership program sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that seeks to help consumers and businesses make smart water choices that save money and maintain high environmental standards without compromising performance. Products and programs that earn the WaterSense label are independently certified to use about 20 percent less water and perform as well or better than standard models.

EPA is pleased to announce the release of the *WaterSense Draft Specification for Spray Sprinkler Bodies*. Approximately 13.5 million irrigation systems are currently installed in residential lawns across the United States, and an estimated one-third of new homes constructed each year include an irrigation system. Many existing systems operate at water pressures above those recommended by sprinkler manufacturers, which can result in excessive flow rates, misting, fogging, and uneven distribution, wasting water and diminishing the irrigation system's performance. Spray sprinkler bodies with integral pressure regulation are designed to maintain and provide constant, optimal flow at the nozzle across a range of inlet water pressures, reducing water waste and system inefficiencies that would otherwise occur at high pressures.

Replacing standard spray sprinkler bodies with those that have integral pressure regulation or installing these models in new irrigation systems offers a significant opportunity for water savings. WaterSense estimates that the average household using 50,500 gallons per year for outdoor water use with an irrigation system operating at 60 psi could save nearly 5,600 gallons of water per year by installing WaterSense labeled sprinkler bodies. Replacing all standard spray sprinkler bodies across the United States with WaterSense labeled models could save more than 31 billion gallons of water nationally each year.

The purpose of this letter is to request your feedback regarding the draft specification for spray sprinkler bodies. EPA will accept written comments and plans to hold a public meeting via teleconference and webinar to discuss stakeholder comments. The public meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2017, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Eastern. Details regarding webinar registration can be found on the [WaterSense website](#). EPA will also hold an informal information session in the Oasis area of the Irrigation Show expo floor in Las Vegas, Nevada, on December 7, 2016, at 3:30 p.m. PT.

## Earning the WaterSense Label for Spray Sprinkler Bodies

The attached *WaterSense Draft Specification for Spray Sprinkler Bodies* provides the proposed criteria that a spray sprinkler body must meet in order to earn the WaterSense label. The specification is designed to ensure sustainable, efficient water use.

With the announcement of this draft specification, manufacturers, retailers, and distributors that produce or sell spray sprinkler bodies are welcome to join the program as WaterSense partners. Following the close of the comment period, EPA will review all comments and provide a consolidated response. The specification will then be finalized, and WaterSense partners can submit product applications to WaterSense licensed certifying bodies for certification and labeling.

## Providing Input on the Draft Specification

EPA welcomes your input on the *WaterSense Draft Specification for Spray Sprinkler Bodies* and its associated supporting materials including the *WaterSense Draft Specification for Spray Sprinkler Bodies Supporting Statement* and *Product Notification Template*. All interested parties are encouraged to review the draft specification and supporting materials and email their written comments no later than January 31, 2017.

Written comments should be directed to [watersense-products@erg.com](mailto:watersense-products@erg.com). All comments, except data claimed as confidential business information (CBI), become a part of the public record. Information that qualifies as CBI can be submitted as such through EPA's contractor, Eastern Research Group, Inc. (ERG) as described below. Sensitive business information can be claimed confidential under 40 CFR Part 2 Subpart B. ERG has an EPA-approved security plan in place to protect CBI from unauthorized disclosure. All data submitted as confidential will be handled as such. CBI should not be submitted electronically, but can be submitted as a hardcopy document or on a CD, DVD, or flash drive. Data submitted as CBI will not become a part of the public record unless aggregated and masked to conceal the identity of the submitter.

Data claimed as CBI should be submitted to:

Eastern Research Group, Inc.  
Attn: WaterSense Helpline  
2300 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 350  
Arlington, VA 22201

If you have any questions, please contact Stephanie Tanner at (202) 564-2660 or [tanner.stephanie@epa.gov](mailto:tanner.stephanie@epa.gov), or the WaterSense Helpline at (866) 987-7367 or [watersense@epa.gov](mailto:watersense@epa.gov). We look forward to receiving your feedback on the specification, as well as your organization's participation with WaterSense.

Sincerely,



Veronica Blette, Chief  
WaterSense Branch