

DOCKETED

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Monitors and PC Power Usage

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

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May 23, 2016
Commissioner Andrew McAllister
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Docket No. 14-AAER-2
2015 Appliance Efficiency Pre-Rulemaking:
Computers, Computer Monitors, and Signage Displays

I am writing with regards to the new standards you wish to establish for the above equipment. As a Mechanical Engineer that relies heavily on desktop and laptop systems for CAD/CAM/Revit rendering programs, it is rather foolish in my opinion to limit the adders on a PC system or require mandatory energy savings. Most systems that due heavy rendering/gpu processing do not use stock components from the manufacturer but rather have been modified or built in the field on an as needed basis. My typical drafting station runs 2-24" or 26" monitors with one 17" for word/excel using one or two crosslinked GPU's. All of the power supplies on these systems exceed 500 watts (I found out the smaller ones just didn't work, burned out too fast).

Further, having experimented with the power off options, the data transmitted via intranet to the file servers is susceptible to loss when systems go idle and restart. As a result, I have disabled thru the Windows/Linux operating systems any of the PC hard drive idle off, LAN off, cpu off, etc. for the entire time any of the desktop PC's/Servers are on and when the laptops are plugged into their chargers. The only items allowed to sleep are the monitors due to the inordinate amount of time lost (time lost=dollars in employee costs) waiting for the systems to reboot/resume/restart and the time needed to redraw lost data. I have also spoken with my other colleagues in the area regarding the above practice and just about all of them do the same.

Concluding, the energy savings of \$18 over the life of each device (5 years maybe) versus several hundred dollars of lost employee time in a year isn't worth it. Big picture, maybe, reality, no. My recommendation is to keep the adders (call them what they are, expansion slots) as they are, develop the software with the ability to turn things off but the user still has the ability to override it. I am for making the monitors, pc power supplies etc., more energy efficient but the user gets override the settings. All is fair in love and war in the land of the fruits and nuts and I think we are becoming overregulated.

Greg Davis, PE M29759,
President
Member of the biggest group of stakeholders, The Taxpayer