Overview of ASRAC Operations

Committee Responsibilities and Interactions with DOE & Chartered Working Groups

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DOE and ASRAC

- ASRAC is an advisory committee charted by DOE
  - Parent Committee members are appointed by DOE
  - A Federal Register notice was published March 8, 2012 seeking nominations for the committee
  - Appointees were selected by DOE and appointed by Secretary of Energy
  - Membership limited to approximately 12 individuals with one spot reserved for DOE staff as required by the Negotiated Rulemaking Act
  - Staggered term limits of 1-3 years, but can be reappointed for one successive term
  - *As needed*, Federal Register notice will be published to solicit nominations for new members to fill vacancies
- ASRAC is solely advisory in nature, with focus on appliance standards rulemaking issues and solutions
- Committee tasks originate from discussion between DOE and ASRAC members, defining clear goals, timeframe for task completion, and target date for presenting the Committee’s formal recommendations to DOE
DOE and ASRAC

- *As needed,* ASRAC will vote to form working groups to investigate each task in detail and gather additional input from stakeholders
  - In such cases where ASRAC votes to form a working group, DOE will publish a Federal Register notice soliciting nominations for members
  - Working group efforts are presented to ASRAC and ASRAC deliberates and forms recommendations to DOE (working groups never present recommendations directly to DOE)
- DOE may withdraw a task from ASRAC at any time
- In the event a consensus recommendation is not reached for a particular task within a given timeframe, ASRAC will let DOE know that no recommendations will be made and it is determined to withdraw task or give the working group more time
  - Without a consensus recommendation from the working group and affirmation from ASRAC, DOE will proceed with its “normal” rulemaking activities
ASRAC’s Scope of Activities

- As a negotiated rulemaking federal advisory committee, ASRAC was chartered to provide advice and recommendations related to:
  1. Minimum efficiency standards for appliances and equipment,
  2. Test procedures,
  3. New product coverage,
  4. Certification, laboratory accreditation, and testing programs,
  5. Labeling for various appliances and equipment, and
  6. Specific issues of concern to DOE, as requested.

- ASRAC efforts are expected to expedite the Appliance Standards Program’s rulemaking activities and yield better decisions by moving from a contentious rulemaking process to a consensus model.
ASRAC’s Process Flow

1. Task Discussion

2. ASRAC

3. ASRAC/DOE form Working Groups

4. WG “Task Brief Meeting”

5. WG Deliberations

6. WG Update/Consensus

7. ASRAC Deliberation Update/Consensus

8. Recommendation

8a. As Decided - Additional Work from WG

8b. As Decided - Dissolve WG
ASRAC Process: Tasking Discussion

- At a public meeting, ASRAC discusses identified tasks and may identify additional tasks (with input/discussion from DOE and the public) and votes on whether to accept or reject a task.
- For accepted tasks, DOE and ASRAC establish clear goals, timeframe for task completion/deliverables, and target date for presenting ASRAC’s formal recommendations to DOE.
- ASRAC members will be asked to volunteer to serve on working groups based on expertise and interest.
  - In instances where there are no volunteers, ASRAC members will be asked to nominate a fellow member and bring to a vote.
ASRAC Process: WG Formation

• After tasking is finalized, DOE will publish a Federal Register notice that:
  1. Announces the task taken on by ASRAC,
  2. Solicits nominations for the Working Group, and
  3. Establishes expected time commitment requirements for WG members

• Depending on established task deadlines, nominations may be accepted for up to one month.

• ASRAC will conduct the initial screening to select members for the working group.
  • Membership for working groups is limited to 25 members, this includes the required seats for at least one full Committee representative and one for DOE’s representative.

• Once the recommendations are finalized, DOE will have the opportunity to review and amend working group membership, as necessary.

• Once formed, the DOE and ASRAC representatives for the working group will select a working group chair.
ASRAC Process: WG “Task Brief Meeting”

• Once a working group is finalized, DOE will publish a notice of open meeting in the Federal Register that announces the first meeting (“Task Brief Meeting”)

• At the task brief meeting:
  1. DOE and the ASRAC representative outline the expectations of the working group as a negotiated rulemaking effort (if applicable)
  2. DOE and the ASRAC representative clearly outline the task at hand
     • Provide full details of any preliminary work that has been done towards the objective and identify any deliverable deadlines (e.g., status update) and expected task completion date.
  3. Working group members reaffirm their commitment to the task and develop a work plan

• Work plan is emailed to ASRAC members as courtesy and chance to comment
  – ASRAC members will have a finite amount of time to comment
  – Comments will be considered at the working groups next meeting and the work plan will be finalized
ASRAC Process: WG Deliberations

• After establishing a work plan, working groups will meet as necessary to accomplish set goals
  – Meetings will be announced in the Federal Register and will be open to the public.
  – The number of meetings will depend on the controversy of the task topic, opposing views of the working group members, and the deadline for the rule to be published/implemented.

• Working groups will operate by consensus
  – Once the working group has reached a consensus (or decided the inability to reach consensus) about its recommendation, it will draft a report for distribution to the full Committee and will notify the ASRAC chair(s).
    • The report will be posted to the appropriate docket and will be sent to ASRAC members
    • The working group chair will present the recommendations and efforts of the working group at the next full Committee meeting.

• In instances there is a ASRAC meeting before consensus can be reached, working groups will be asked to provide an update to ASRAC regarding their efforts.
ASRAC Process: ASRAC Deliberation on WG Efforts

• Working group chair will present any updates or their final consensus determination to ASRAC.
  – For updates (or instances a determination has been made that the working group cannot achieve consensus), the working group chair will present current majority and minority views towards the working group’s efforts to ASRAC.

• Based on the working group’s update, ASRAC will deliberate and:
  1. Give additional time allowance for a given task, decide to have the working group give the task further consideration or focus on specific issue raised by the Committee.
  2. Vote to accept the working groups recommendation **without change** and form recommendation to DOE with majority and minority views.
  3. Notify DOE that no recommendation can be made on particular task and give associated rationale:
     a. Working group cannot achieve consensus **or**
     b. ASRAC is not able to reach majority consensus to submit working group’s recommendation without change.
How Can I Participate?

• There are a number of ways stakeholders can get involved:
  1. Nominate yourself for consideration to participate as a voting member on ASRAC (when seats are available).
  2. Nominate yourself for consideration to participate as a voting member of a working group.
  3. Attend ASRAC meetings or working group meetings as a constituent to voting members and participate in caucuses.
  4. Attend ASRAC meetings or working group meetings and participate as member of the public.
  5. Anyone can submit written comments or questions to asrac@ee.doe.gov.
Questions


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