

Department of Energy

MEMORANDUM

Date: August 4, 1988

Subject: Approval to Include Wood Stoves As A Weatherization Assistance Program Material

To: Support Office Directors

Introduction

The Department of Energy's (DOE) Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) has had under consideration for the past several years the inclusion of wood stoves as an allowable measure in the Weatherization Program. DOE funded an independent analysis of wood stoves through the Boston Support Office and Argonne National Laboratory. The analysis was contracted to address the following concerns:

- 1) Safety
- 2) Cost-Effectiveness
- 3) Technical Specifications
- 4) Environmental Factors

In addition to the above concerns, the inclusion analysis addressed specific areas relating to liability, fuel quality, insurance, and certification and bonding of installers and inspectors. As a result of this analysis and comments received from the DOE Support offices as well as many States, DOE approves the use of replacement wood stoves as an allowable measure under the Weatherization Program.

Background

DOE has received requests from many States to allow the replacement of wood stoves under the DOE program. Currently, States are using the Department of Health and Human Services' Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program or other funds to replace these units. The program regulations allow DOE to approve new measures to the program without going through a lengthy rulemaking process. Since there was limited information at DOE upon which to base a decision on whether to include wood stoves in the program, WAP contracted the analysis to assist in making a final decision. This report along with other data supplied by States, National Laboratories, utilities, and others was used in making the decision to include replacement wood stoves as an allowable measure. Since wood stoves are considered quite different from replacement furnaces and boilers already allowed under the DOE program, DOE requires States to meet the following criteria prior to receiving approval from the DOE Support Office to include this measure in their program.

Implementation

DOE considers wood stoves to be a unique measure. Therefore, any State that wishes to include wood stoves must submit an alternative energy audit if there is not one presently approved which addresses heating system (including wood heating systems) replacements as part of the priority list. It is the energy audit which is the driving force for determining whether a wood stove should be replaced. Additionally, as a part of or as an amendment to the annual plan, States must include the methodology for implementing the following criteria with their local agencies or service providers:

- 1) Ensure wood stove installations, maintenance and inspections are performed by qualified personnel only.
- 2) Ensure that only wood stoves which are certified and labeled by the National Fire Protection Association under 86M-1986 and 211-1984, the International Conference of Building officials, or other equivalent listing organization may be purchased with DOE funds and that electrical parts are certified and labeled by Underwriters Laboratory. These organizations require the manufacturer to test the heater and include detailed instructions for safe installation. After July 1990, stoves must be certified to meet the Environmental Protection Agency emission standards or local standards if they are stricter.
- 3) Ensure that local agencies obtain appropriate liability insurance.
- 4) Ensure that only a wood stove certified and labeled for mobile homes may be installed in a mobile home. The label should reference the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Mobile Home Standard and name the independent testing laboratory. Installation must be done in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.
- 5) Ensure that before a State includes wood stove work as a part of its weatherization program, it coordinates with State and County fire marshals (or equivalent) to ensure that restrictions and codes are met. All applicable permits must be obtained, and all work must receive approval from subsequent inspections.
- 6) Ensure that each agency performs client education for every recipient of a new stove which outlines the safe operation and proper maintenance of the unit.

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