DOE’s Working Group on Adopting a Standard Port for Water Heaters

ACEEE Hot Water Forum

February 23, 2016
Moderator: Brian Spak -- Portland General
Panelists: Bill Hosken -- AO Smith
Chris Granda – ASAP
Robin Roy -- NRDC
About Portland General Electric

- 850,000 customers
  - 750,000 residential
  - 70% of Oregon’s GDP
- Serving Oregon since 1889 – first AC hydro plant and first long-distance transmission
- Advocating for 50% RPS by 2040
- Focused on customers
  - Top quartile – residential customer satisfaction
  - Top customer participation and kWhs in Utility Green Power Programs
Inside the walls of Oregon’s largest utility
Background and DOE’s ‘Ask’

In a Sept. 14, 2015, Senators Cantwell and Wyden of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources requested that DOE “…establish a working group to establish and promote the widespread adoption of a standard communications port for selected appliances, particularly electric water heaters.”

To address the concerns above, DOE is soliciting the Appliance Standard Rulemaking Advisory Committee’s (ASRAC) interest in establishing a Connected-Equipment Working Group under ASRAC to:

1. **Recommend a specific, open communications port** or recommend a process for identifying and establishing a specific open communications standard port to be the exclusive grid-interactive communications protocol on Grid-Enabled Water Heaters (GEWHs).

2. **Develop a path forward to encourage widespread adoption** of a voluntary standard communications port for GEWHs. If the group is unable to align towards wide-scale adoption of a voluntary standard, we then request recommendations for determining appropriate federal action to promote a standard port.

3. **Identify potential pilot projects** to increase adoption of a standard communications port on GEWHs in specific regions of the country.

Source: U.S. DOE, January ASRAC meeting