

## Gallarzo, Wednesday R

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**From:** Mackay, Sean C  
**Sent:** Monday, April 6, 2015 5:24 AM  
**To:** Kristjansson, Sue; Chawkins, Ken D; Wooden, Grant  
**Subject:** AGA FOIA Request - Doc Attached  
**Attachments:** freedom\_of\_information\_request\_to\_doe\_from\_aga\_mar\_31\_2015.pdf

**ME FIRST: GAS GROUP FILES FOIA ON DOE REG:** The American Gas Association wants a chance to dissect just how the Energy Department cooked up its proposed efficiency standards for residential furnaces. AGA is accusing the agency of “obscuring” several aspects of its rulemaking process, including the assumptions and methodologies at play, and filed a Freedom of Information Act for several documents. Despite the group’s efforts to obtain many of documents through written requests, AGA says that it’s so far been rebuffed. AGA’s FOIA request calls for information across a dozen different aspects of the draft rule, including the “consumer choice model” DOE developed to figure out the conditions under which homeowners and builders might switch to an electric system rather than install a new natural gas furnace that meets the proposed standard. In digging into the model, AGA wants to know how DOE’s regulation developers came up with the estimate that new appliances meeting the standard would take 3.5 years to pay for themselves in savings.

**What’s all the huff about?** The draft rule is expected to save consumers anywhere between \$3.1 billion and \$16.1 billion by 2050, according to DOE projections. But the 80-page draft rule also says the standard could drive up certain emissions. While the proposal notes projected reductions in CO2 and NOx emissions, it says that increases in other pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and mercury are expected “due to projected switching from [non-weatherized gas furnaces] to electric heat pumps and electric furnaces under the proposed standards.” AGA is also arguing that the standard may not save as much energy as DOE expects, while imposing high costs.

**On top of complaining about DOE’s conclusions,** AGA argued that much of the analyses DOE seems to rely on are based on “methodologies that are proprietary or otherwise outside the public domain” and AGA noted its interest in documents potentially held by Navigant Consulting, which does work on DOE rulemakings. AGA isn’t alone that concern. For example, last year, the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute, a trade group of manufacturers, criticized the “flawed” analysis that went into DOE’s commercial refrigeration rule and is suing (<http://politico.pro/1kQvwqN>) the agency in federal court. AGA’s FOIA request: <http://politico.pro/1FvzJOf>