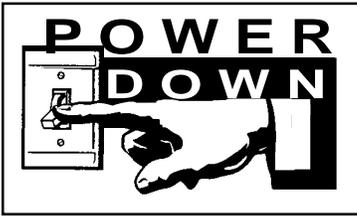


President orders agencies to buy energy-efficient products



On July 31, President George W. Bush signed an executive order requiring federal agencies to purchase appliances — including computer equipment, cell phones and copy machines — that meet a one-watt energy efficiency standard in standby or “sleep” mode. Standby power enables devices to turn on quickly or to maintain memory.

The order is part of the administration’s efforts to make the government more energy efficient. “One of the ways that our nation wastes energy is through what they call vampire devices,” Bush said. “These will be a battery charger, cell phone chargers, computer systems that we really think [are] not using energy when plugged in but, in fact, are. And so we’ve set what we call a 1-watt standard throughout the federal government, that we expect our agencies to be ridding themselves of the vampires and using energy conservation devices.”

Dave Kelly, who oversees Fluor Hanford’s energy efficiency efforts for the site, said no mandatory action should be taken until formal contract direction is received. But he added that it’s important to be aware of the “resting” power usage of appliances and other electric devices.

Significant power savings can be realized, according to Kelly, by shutting off unneeded devices that have high electrical usage when in rest or standby mode. He advises researching the resting power requirements of new devices before procuring computers and other electronic devices. ♦