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SUBJECT: Check Power Mode Proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to enhance the Check Power Mode command.

At the drive level we are continually improving power management for energy star and battery life requirements.

The Check Power Mode command as defined in the current specification identifies either a standby mode (00h) or idle/active mode (FFh).

We have had a number of requests from users to add an additional power state.

The proposal includes the following:

Para. 7.3.2. Power Management Commands

The Check Power Mode command allows a host to determine if a device is currently in, going to or leaving Standby, Idle, or Active mode.

Para. 8.4. CHECK POWER MODE

If the device is in, going to, or recovering from the Standby, Idle, or Active mode the device shall set BSY, set the sector count register to code (XXh), clear BSY, and generate an interrupt.

Code	Power Mode
00h	Standby
80h	Idle
FFh	Active

Table XX - Power Mode Codes

If at all possible it would be beneficial if this proposal could be included in the ATA2 specification. Maxtor currently supplies products with this proposal.