

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMATIC APPLIANCE MANAGEMENT**ABSTRACT**

5 An appliance management device can record or store sets of appliance control signals output by remote control units associated with distinct appliances. Such appliances can differ in appliance type and/or manufacturer. Distinct appliance control signal sets stored within the appliance management device can be identical, similar, or
10 dissimilar with respect to type, format, or communication protocol. In response to detecting a lack of human activity, the appliance management device automatically outputs stored control signal sets to transition a group of appliances to an overall reduced power state. While in an alert mode, in response to detecting an alert condition indicating the presence of human activity or a threshold condition (e.g., a
15 threshold temperature), the appliance management device automatically sends a corresponding SMS message or an e-mail message. Appliance management devices can form an appliance management device network in which status information or notifications can be communicated between appliance management devices.

20 FIG. 1