EXHIBIT "B"

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE FOR CONDUCTING INFORMAL BUDGET DISPUTE RESOLUTION

- 1. Dispute Resolution Conference(s) (DRC) should be telephonic whenever possible to conserve time and expense.
- 2. A DRC should normally begin by each Party acknowledging that he/she has recently read and understands the United States Trustees' "Informal Budget Dispute Resolution Process" and the exhibits thereto, including this "Suggested Procedure for Conducting Informal Budget Dispute Resolution."
- 3. Both Parties should acknowledge to the Panel:
 - a. that they have exclusively reserved the amount of time previously agreed for the DRC that day;
 - b. that they each are willing to attempt in good faith to reach a compromise.
- 4. Normally, a brief opening statement of the issue, the reasons supporting the position of, and the desired outcome by the Standing Trustee should be stated.
- 5. Normally, a brief response to the issue, the reasons supporting the position of and the desired outcome by the United States Trustee should be stated.
- 6. Normally, the Panel will then speak separately and confidentially to each side privately, to explore the strengths and weaknesses of the case, to discuss the time, expense, delay and any other disadvantages of other forms of dispute resolution, and to determine what is needed for acceptable compromise, and to convey with permission, the irreducible needs of the other side.
- 7. Normally, the Panel will then carry settlement offers and counter offers back and forth until agreement of the parties is reached or the Panel determines the proceedings to be at an impasse.
- 8. If the Parties resolve their dispute, the Panel will assist the Parties in reducing to writing a description of that resolution for signatures. That document will become part of the United States Trustee's proposed budget submission to the Director. The submission will include the Process. In the event the Parties are unable to arrive at an agreement

to resolve the dispute, the Panel may, on unanimous agreement of the Panel, within five (5) working days of conclusion of the attempted mediation issue a <u>non-binding</u>

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joint written recommendation to the Parties. The Parties may either accept or reject the recommendation or use it as the basis for further negotiation between themselves. The issuance of the recommendation by the Panel will conclude the Process. At conclusion of the Process, the Panel will complete and serve on the Assistant Director of ORO and the NACTT Chair a "Report On Result Of Informal Budget Dispute Resolution Process," Exhibit "C" hereto.

- 9. The initial task of the Panel is to facilitate, if possible, the Parties reaching a compromise agreement themselves.
- 10. These procedures may be varied in the discretion of the Panel.
- 11. If in the opinion of the Panel an impasse is reached, the Panel may, on unanimous agreement of the Panel, issue a joint written, non-binding recommendation only to the Parties within five (5) working days, which they may accept or reject or use as the basis for further negotiations between themselves. If not "accepted" by both, the Process will be reported by the Panel on Exhibit "C" as "no agreement reached". If the recommendation is "accepted" by both, the Agreement should be reduced to writing and a signed copy retained by each of the disputing parties only and a Report (Exhibit "C") immediately sent to the Assistant Director of ORO and the NACTT Chair by the Panel.
- 12. The Parties should not have any direct or indirect communication with the Panel on the issue in question prior to the DRC.