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may refile the petition for review, and the Authority will determine whether resolution of the petition is still required.

(b) *Exclusive representative has not filed related unfair labor practice charge or grievance alleging an unfair labor practice.* Where an exclusive representative files only a petition for review under this part, the petition will be processed as follows:

(1) *No bargaining obligation dispute exists.* Where there is no bargaining obligation dispute, the Authority will resolve the petition for review under the procedures of this part.

(2) *A bargaining obligation dispute exists.* Where a bargaining obligation dispute exists in addition to the negotiability dispute, the Authority will inform the exclusive representative of any opportunity to file an unfair labor practice charge pursuant to part 2423 of this subchapter or a grievance under the parties' negotiated grievance procedure and, where the exclusive representative pursues either of these courses, proceed in accord with paragraph (a) of this section. If the exclusive representative does not file an unfair labor practice charge or grievance, the Authority will proceed to resolve all disputes necessary for disposition of the petition unless, in its discretion, the Authority determines that resolving all disputes is not appropriate because, for example, resolution of the bargaining obligation dispute under this part would unduly delay resolution of the negotiability dispute, or the procedures in another, available administrative forum are better suited to resolve the bargaining obligation dispute.

§ 2424.31 Resolution of disputed issues of material fact; hearings.

When necessary to resolve disputed issues of material fact in a negotiability or bargaining obligation dispute, or when it would otherwise aid in decision making, the Authority, or its designated representative, may, as appropriate:

(a) Direct the parties to provide specific documentary evidence;

(b) Direct the parties to provide answers to specific factual questions;

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(c) Refer the matter to a hearing pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 7117(b)(3) and/or (c)(5); or

(d) Take any other appropriate action.

§ 2424.32 Parties' responsibilities; failure to raise, support, and/or respond to arguments; failure to participate in conferences and/or respond to Authority orders.

(a) *Responsibilities of the exclusive representative.* The exclusive representative has the burden of raising and supporting arguments that the proposal or provision is within the duty to bargain, within the duty to bargain at the agency's election, or not contrary to law, respectively, and, where applicable, why severance is appropriate.

(b) *Responsibilities of the agency.* The agency has the burden of raising and supporting arguments that the proposal or provision is outside the duty to bargain or contrary to law, respectively, and, where applicable, why severance is not appropriate.

(c) *Failure to raise, support, and respond to arguments.* (1) Failure to raise and support an argument will, where appropriate, be deemed a waiver of such argument. Absent good cause:

(i) Arguments that could have been but were not raised by an exclusive representative in the petition for review, or made in its response to the agency's statement of position, may not be made in this or any other proceeding; and

(ii) Arguments that could have been but were not raised by an agency in the statement of position, or made in its reply to the exclusive representative's response, may not be raised in this or any other proceeding.

(2) Failure to respond to an argument or assertion raised by the other party will, where appropriate, be deemed a concession to such argument or assertion.

(d) *Failure to participate in conferences; failure to respond to Authority orders.* Where a party fails to participate in a post-petition conference pursuant to §2424.23, a direction or proceeding under §2424.31, or otherwise fails to provide timely or responsive information pursuant to an Authority order, including an Authority procedural order directing the correction of

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technical deficiencies in filing, the Authority may, in addition to those actions set forth in paragraph (c) of this section, take any other action that, in the Authority's discretion, is deemed appropriate, including dismissal of the petition for review, with or without prejudice to the exclusive representative's refiling of the petition for review, and granting the petition for review and directing bargaining and/or rescission of an agency head disapproval under 5 U.S.C. 7114(c), with or without conditions.

§§ 2424.33–2424.39 [Reserved]

Subpart E—Decision and Order

§ 2424.40 Authority decision and order.

(a) *Issuance.* Subject to the requirements of this part, the Authority will expedite proceedings under this part to the extent practicable and will issue to the exclusive representative and to the agency a written decision, explaining the specific reasons for the decision, at the earliest practicable date. The decision will include an order, as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, but, with the exception of an order to bargain, such order will not include remedies that could be obtained in an unfair labor practice proceeding under 5 U.S.C. 7118(a)(7).

(b) *Cases involving proposals.* If the Authority finds that the duty to bargain extends to the proposal, or any severable part of the proposal, then the Authority will order the agency to bargain on request concerning the proposal. If the Authority finds that the duty to bargain does not extend to the proposal, then the Authority will dismiss the petition for review. If the Authority finds that the proposal is bargainable only at the election of the agency, then the Authority will so state. If the Authority resolves a negotiability dispute by finding that a proposal is within the duty to bargain, but there are unresolved bargaining obligation dispute claims, then the Authority will order the agency to bargain on request in the event its bargaining obligation claims are resolved in a manner that requires bargaining.

(c) *Cases involving provisions.* If the Authority finds that a provision, or

any severable part thereof, is not contrary to law, rule or regulation, or is bargainable at the election of the agency, the Authority will direct the agency to rescind its disapproval of such provision in whole or in part as appropriate. If the Authority finds that a provision is contrary to law, rule, or regulation, the Authority will dismiss the petition for review as to that provision.

§ 2424.41 Compliance.

The exclusive representative may report to the appropriate Regional Director an agency's failure to comply with an order, issued in accordance with § 2424.40, that the agency must upon request (or as otherwise agreed to by the parties) bargain concerning the proposal or that the agency must rescind its disapproval of a provision. The exclusive representative must report such failure within a reasonable period of time following expiration of the 60-day period under 5 U.S.C. 7123(a), which begins on the date of issuance of the Authority order. If, on referral from the Regional Director, the Authority finds such a failure to comply with its order, the Authority will take whatever action it deems necessary to secure compliance with its order, including enforcement under 5 U.S.C. 7123(b).

§§ 2424.42–2424.49 [Reserved]

Subpart F—Criteria for Determining Compelling Need for Agency Rules and Regulations

§ 2424.50 Illustrative criteria.

A compelling need exists for an agency rule or regulation concerning any condition of employment when the agency demonstrates that the rule or regulation meets one or more of the following illustrative criteria:

(a) The rule or regulation is essential, as distinguished from helpful or desirable, to the accomplishment of the mission or the execution of functions of the agency or primary national subdivision in a manner that is consistent with the requirements of an effective and efficient government.