Administrative Law Judge, after consideration of the nature of the proceeding, the requirements of the public interest, the representations of the parties, and the probability of an agreement being reached which will result in a just disposition of the issues involved.

- (b) *Content.* Any agreement containing consent findings and an order disposing of a proceeding or any part thereof shall also provide:
- (1) That the order shall have the same force and effect as an order made after full hearing;
- (2) That the entire record on which any order may be based shall consist solely of the notice of administrative determination (or amended notice, if one is filed), and the agreement;
- (3) A waiver of any further procedural steps before the Administrative Law Judge; and
- (4) A waiver of any right to challenge or contest the validity of the findings and order entered into in accordance with the agreement.
- (c) *Submission*. On or before the expiration of the time granted for negotiations, the parties or their authorized representatives or their counsel may:
- (1) Submit the proposed agreement for consideration by the Administrative Law Judge; or
- (2) Inform the Administrative Law Judge that agreement cannot be reached.
- (d) Disposition. In the event an agreement containing consent findings and an order is submitted within the time allowed therefor, the Administrative Law Judge, within thirty (30) days thereafter, shall, if satisfied with its form and substance, accept such agreement by issuing a decision based upon the agreed findings.

POST-HEARING PROCEDURES

§ 501.41 Decision and order of Administrative Law Judge.

- (a) The Administrative Law Judge shall prepare, within 60 days after completion of the hearing and closing of the record, a decision on the issues referred by the Administrator.
- (b) The decision of the Administrative Law Judge shall include a statement of findings and conclusions, with reasons and basis therefor, upon each

material issue presented on the record. The decision shall also include an appropriate order which may affirm, deny, reverse, or modify, in whole or in part, the determination of the Administrator. The reason or reasons for such order shall be stated in the decision.

(c) The decision shall be served on all parties and the Secretary in person or by certified mail. The decision when served by the Administrative Law Judge shall constitute the final order of the Administrator unless the Secretary, as provided for in §501.42 below determines to review the decision.

REVIEW OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S DECISION

§ 501.42 Procedures for initiating and undertaking review.

- (a) A respondent, the Administrator or any other party wishing review of the decision of an Administrative Law Judge shall, within 30 days of the decision of the Administrative Law Judge. petition the Secretary to review the decision. Copies of the petition shall be served on all parties and on the Administrative Law Judge. If the Secretary does not issue a notice accepting a petition for review within 30 days after receipt of a timely filing of the petition, or within 30 days of the date of the decision if no petition has been received, the decision of the Administrative Law Judge shall be deemed the final agency action.
- (b) Whenever the Secretary either on the Secretary's own motion or by acceptance of a party's petition, determines to review the decision of an Administrative Law Judge, a notice of the same shall be served upon the Administrative Law Judge and upon all parties to the proceeding in person or by certified mail.

§ 501.43 Responsibility of the Office of Administrative Law Judges.

Upon receipt of the Secretary's Notice pursuant to \$501.42 of these regulations, the Office of Administrative Law Judges shall, promptly forward a copy of the complete hearing record to the Secretary.