

and authorities supporting any bargaining obligation or negotiability claims, any disagreement with claims made by the exclusive representative in the petition for review, specific citation to any law, rule, regulation, section of a collective bargaining agreement, or other authority relied on by the agency, and a copy of any such material that is not easily available to the Authority. The statement of position must also include the following:

(i) If different from the exclusive representative's position, an explanation of the meaning the agency attributes to the proposal or provision and the reasons for disagreeing with the exclusive representative's explanation of meaning;

(ii) If different from the exclusive representative's position, an explanation of how the proposal or provision would work, and the reasons for disagreeing with the exclusive representative's explanation;

(3) A statement as to whether the proposal or provision is also involved in an unfair labor practice charge under part 2423 of this subchapter, a grievance pursuant to the parties' negotiated grievance procedure, or an impasse procedure under part 2470 of this subchapter, and whether any other petition for review has been filed concerning a proposal or provision arising from the same bargaining or the same agency head review;

(4) Any request for a hearing before the Authority and the reasons supporting such request; and

(5) A table of contents and a table of legal authorities cited, if the statement of position exceeds 25 double-spaced pages in length.

(d) *Severance.* If the exclusive representative has requested severance in the petition for review, and if the agency opposes the exclusive representative's request for severance, then the agency must explain with specificity why severance is not appropriate.

(e) *Service.* A copy of the agency's statement of position, including all attachments, must be served in accord with § 2424.2(g).

§ 2424.25 Response of the exclusive representative; purpose; time limits; content; severance; service.

(a) *Purpose.* The purpose of the exclusive representative's response is to inform the Authority and the agency why, despite the agency's arguments in its statement of position, the proposal or provision is within the duty to bargain or not contrary to law, respectively, and whether the union disagrees with any facts or arguments in the agency's statement of position. As more fully explained in paragraph (c) of this section, the exclusive representative is required in its response to, among other things, state why the proposal or provision does not conflict with any law, or why it falls within an exception to management rights, including permissive subjects under 5 U.S.C. 7106(b)(1), and procedures and appropriate arrangements under section 7106(b) (2) and (3). Another purpose of the response is to permit the exclusive representative to request the Authority to sever portions of the proposal or provision and to explain why and how it can be done.

(b) *Time limit for filing.* Unless the time limit for filing has been extended pursuant to § 2424.23 or part 2429 of this subchapter, within fifteen (15) days after the date the exclusive representative receives a copy of an agency's statement of position, the exclusive representative must file a response.

(c) *Content.* The response must be on a form provided by the Authority for that purpose, or in a substantially similar format. With the exception of a request for severance pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, the exclusive representative's response is specifically limited to the matters raised in the agency's statement of position. The response must be dated and must include the following:

(1) Any disagreement with the agency's bargaining obligation or negotiability claims. The exclusive representative must state the arguments and authorities supporting its opposition to any agency argument, and must include specific citation to any law, rule, regulation, section of a collective bargaining agreement, or other authority

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relied on by the exclusive representative, and provide a copy of any such material that is not easily available to the Authority. The exclusive representative is not required to repeat arguments made in the petition for review. If not included in the petition for review, the exclusive representative must state the arguments and authorities supporting any assertion that the proposal or provision does not affect a management right under 5 U.S.C. 7106(a), and any assertion that an exception to management rights applies, including:

- (i) Whether and why the proposal or provision concerns a matter negotiable at the election of the agency under 5 U.S.C. 7106(b)(1);
- (ii) Whether and why the proposal or provision constitutes a negotiable procedure as set forth in 5 U.S.C. 7106(b)(2);
- (iii) Whether and why the proposal or provision constitutes an appropriate arrangement as set forth in 5 U.S.C. 7106(b)(3); and
- (iv) Whether and why the proposal or provision enforces an “applicable law,” within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 7106(a)(2).

(2) Any allegation that agency rules or regulations relied on in the agency’s statement of position violate applicable law, rule, regulation or appropriate authority outside the agency; that the rules or regulations were not issued by the agency or by any primary national subdivision of the agency, or otherwise are not applicable to bar negotiations under 5 U.S.C. 7117(a)(3); or that no compelling need exists for the rules or regulations to bar negotiations.

(3) A table of contents and a table of legal authorities cited if the response to an agency statement of position exceeds 25 double-spaced pages in length.

(d) *Severance*. If not requested in the petition for review, or if the exclusive representative wishes to modify the request in the petition for review, the exclusive representative may request severance in its response. The exclusive representative must support its request with an explanation of how the severed portion(s) of the proposal or provision may stand alone, and how such severed portion(s) would operate. The exclusive representative also must respond to

any agency arguments regarding severance made in the agency’s statement of position. The explanation and argument in support of the severed portion(s) must meet the same requirements for specific information set forth in paragraph (c) of this section.

(e) *Service*. A copy of the response of the exclusive representative, including all attachments, must be served in accord with §2424.2(g).

§ 2424.26 Agency’s reply; purpose; time limits; content; service.

(a) *Purpose*. The purpose of the agency’s reply is to inform the Authority and the exclusive representative whether and why it disagrees with any facts or arguments made for the first time in the exclusive representative’s response. As more fully explained in paragraph (c) of this section, the Agency is required in the reply to, among other things, provide the reasons why the proposal or provision does not fit within any exceptions to management rights that were asserted by the exclusive representative in its response, and to explain why severance of the proposal or provision is not appropriate.

(b) *Time limit for filing*. Unless the time limit for filing has been extended pursuant to §2424.23 or part 2429 of this subchapter, within fifteen (15) days after the date the agency receives a copy of the exclusive representative’s response to the agency’s statement of position, the agency may file a reply.

(c) *Content*. The reply must be on a form provided by the Authority for that purpose, or in a substantially similar format. The agency’s reply is specifically limited to the matters raised for the first time in the exclusive representative’s response. The agency’s reply must state the arguments and authorities supporting its reply, cite with specificity any law, rule, regulation, section of a collective bargaining agreement, or other authority relied on, and provide a copy of any material that is not easily available to the Authority. The agency is not required to repeat arguments made in its statement of position. The agency’s reply must be dated and must include the following:

- (1) Any disagreement with the exclusive representative’s assertion that an