

§ 731.304

respondent's choice, and such representative shall be designated in writing. To be timely, a written answer shall be made no more than 30 days after the date of the notice of proposed action. In the event an employee requests to make an oral answer, the request must be made within this 30 day time frame, and OPM shall determine the time and place thereof, and shall consider any answer the respondent makes in reaching a decision.

(b) *Agency's answer.* An employing agency may also answer the notice of proposed action. The time limit for filing an answer is 30 days from the date of the notice. OPM shall consider any answer the agency makes in reaching a decision.

§ 731.304 Decision.

The decision shall be in writing, dated, and inform the respondent of the reasons for the decision. The employing agency shall remove the appointee or employee from the rolls within 5 work days of receipt of OPM's final decision. The respondent shall also be informed that an adverse decision can be appealed in accordance with subpart E of this part. OPM shall also notify the respondent's employing agency of its decision.

[65 FR 82243, Dec. 28, 2000; 66 FR 11100, Feb. 21, 2001]

Subpart D—Agency Suitability Action Procedures

§ 731.401 Scope.

(a) *Coverage.* This subpart sets forth the procedures to be followed when an agency proposes to take a final suitability action against an applicant or appointee.

(b) *Definition.* In this subpart, *days* mean calendar days.

§ 731.402 Notice of proposed action.

The agency shall provide the applicant or appointee (hereinafter, the "respondent") reasonable notice in writing of the proposed action and of the charges against the respondent (including the availability for review, upon request, of the materials relied upon). The notice shall state the spe-

5 CFR Ch. I (1–1–03 Edition)

cific reasons for the proposed action, and that the respondent has the right to answer the notice in writing. The notice shall inform the respondent of the time limits for response as well as the address to which such response should be made. If the respondent is employed in the competitive service on the date the notice is served, the respondent shall be entitled to be retained in a pay status during the notice period.

§ 731.403 Answer.

A respondent may answer the charges in writing and furnish documentation and/or affidavits in support of the response.

§ 731.404 Decision.

The decision shall be in writing, dated, and inform the respondent of the reasons for the decision. The respondent shall also be informed that an adverse decision can be appealed in accordance with subpart E of this part. The employing agency shall remove an appointee from the rolls within 5 work days of their final decision.

Subpart E—Appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board

§ 731.501 Appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board.

(a) *Appeal to the Merit Systems Protection Board.* An individual who has been found unsuitable for employment may appeal the determination to the Merit Systems Protection Board. If the Board finds that one or more charges are supported by a preponderance of the evidence, it shall affirm the determination. If the Board sustains fewer than all the charges, the Board shall remand the case to OPM or the agency to determine whether the action taken is still appropriate based on the sustained charge(s). This determination of whether the action taken is appropriate shall be final without any further appeal to the Board.

(b) *Appeal procedures.* The procedures for filing an appeal with the Board are found at part 1201 of this chapter.