

## Environmental Protection Agency

## § 179.110

public interest. When an order or ruling is not certified by the presiding officer, it shall be reviewed by the Administrator only upon appeal from the initial decision except when the Administrator determines upon the request of a party and in exceptional circumstances, that delaying review would be deleterious to vital public or private interests. Except in extraordinary circumstances, proceedings will not be stayed pending an interlocutory appeal. Where a stay is granted, a stay of more than 30 days must be approved by the Administrator.

(c) Ordinarily, the interlocutory appeal will be decided on the basis of the submission made to the presiding officer, but the Administrator may allow further briefs and oral arguments. Any oral argument will be transcribed and the transcript will be prepared and certified in the same manner as provided in § 179.94.

### § 179.105 Initial decision.

(a) After the filing of briefs and any oral argument, the presiding officer shall prepare and file an initial decision on the issues of fact in the hearing and the objections relating to those issues.

(b) The initial decision must be based on a fair evaluation of the entire record, and must contain:

(1)(i) A conclusion that no change is warranted in the order or regulation to which objection was taken; or

(ii) A conclusion that changes in the order or regulation are warranted, the language of the order or regulation as changed, and an effective date for the order or regulation as changed.

(2) Findings of fact supported by reliable, probative and substantial evidence that has been found admissible by the presiding officer, and adequate citations to the record supporting those findings.

(3) Conclusions on legal and policy issues, if such conclusions are necessary to resolve the objections.

(4) A discussion of the reasons for the findings and conclusions, including a discussion of the significant contentions made by any party.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by order of the Administrator filed in accordance with § 179.80, after the initial

decision is filed, the presiding officer has no further jurisdiction over the matter and any motions or requests filed with the hearing clerk will be decided by the Administrator.

(d) The initial decision becomes the final decision of the Administrator by operation of law unless a party files exceptions with the hearing clerk under § 179.107 or the Administrator files a notice of review under § 179.110.

[55 FR 50293, Dec. 5, 1990, as amended at 70 FR 33360, June 8, 2005]

### § 179.107 Appeal from or review of initial decision.

(a) A party may appeal an initial decision to the Administrator by filing exceptions with the hearing clerk, and serving them on the other parties, within the period specified in the initial decision. The period may not exceed 30 days, unless extended by the Administrator under paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) Exceptions must specifically identify alleged errors in the findings of fact or conclusions of law or policy in the initial decision and, if errors in the findings of fact are alleged, must provide supporting citations to evidence of record. Oral argument before the Administrator may be requested in the exceptions.

(c) Any reply to the exceptions is to be filed and served within the timeperiod specified in the initial decision. The timeperiod may not exceed 30 days after the end of the period (including any extensions) for filing exceptions, unless extended by the Administrator under paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) The Administrator may extend the time for filing exceptions or replies to exceptions for good cause shown.

(e) If the Administrator decides to hear oral argument, the parties will be informed of the date, time, and place; the amount of time allotted to each party, and the issues to be addressed.

### § 179.110 Determination by Administrator to review initial decision.

Within 10 days following the expiration of the time for filing exceptions (including any extensions), the Administrator may file with the hearing clerk, and serve on the parties, a notice