

Environmental Protection Agency

§ 179.80

Subpart D—Presiding Officer

§ 179.60 Designation and qualifications of presiding officer.

The presiding officer in a hearing will be an administrative law judge qualified under 5 U.S.C. 3105 and designated by the Agency's chief administrative law judge.

§ 179.70 Authority of presiding officer.

The presiding officer shall conduct the hearing in a fair and impartial manner subject to the precepts of the Administrative Procedure Act. The presiding officer has all powers necessary to conduct a fair, expeditious, and orderly hearing, including the power to:

- (a) Specify and change the date, time, and place for conferences, and issue and modify a schedule for the hearing.
- (b) Establish an orderly manner for developing evidentiary facts at preliminary conferences under §179.87, for making rulings on oral testimony and cross-examination under §179.93, and for making other similar evidentiary rulings in accord with these regulations.
- (c) Prepare statements of the areas of factual disagreement among the participants.
- (d) Hold conferences to settle, simplify, or determine the issues in a hearing or to consider other matters that may expedite the hearing.
- (e) Administer oaths and affirmations.
- (f) Control the course of the hearing and the conduct of the participants.
- (g) Examine witnesses and strike their testimony if they fail to respond fully to proper questions.
- (h) Rule on, admit, exclude, or limit evidence.
- (i) Set the time for filing pleadings.
- (j) Rule on motions and other procedural matters.
- (k) Rule on motions for summary decision under §179.90.
- (l) Conduct the hearing in stages if the number of parties is large or the issues are numerous and complex.
- (m) Strike the participation of any person under §179.42(f), or exclude any person from the hearing under §179.50,

or take other reasonable disciplinary action.

(n) Take any other action for the fair, expeditious, and orderly conduct of the hearing that is not in conflict with law or these rules.

§ 179.75 Disqualification of deciding officials.

(a) A deciding official in a hearing under this part (including, e.g., the Administrator, judicial officer, or presiding officer) shall not decide any matter in connection with which he or she has a financial interest in any of the parties, or a relationship that would make it otherwise inappropriate for him or her to act.

(b) A party may request that a deciding official disqualify himself/herself and withdraw from the proceeding. The party may obtain interlocutory review by the Administrator of a denial of such a request made to any deciding official other than the Administrator.

(c) A deciding official who is aware of grounds for disqualification shall withdraw from the proceeding.

§ 179.78 Unavailability of presiding officer.

If the presiding officer is unable to act for any reason, his or her powers with respect to the hearing will be assigned by the Chief Administrative Law Judge to another presiding officer. The substitution will not affect the hearing, *i.e.*, the testimony of the witnesses will not be taken anew except as the new presiding officer may order upon the request of a party where the credibility of a witness is of particular importance.

Subpart E—Hearing Procedures

§ 179.80 Filing and service.

(a) All documents required or authorized to be filed by a party to a hearing under this part regarding any matter to be decided by the presiding officer, the judicial officer, or the Administrator shall be filed in triplicate with the hearing clerk, in the manner specified by §178.25(b) of this chapter. Each filing shall prominently note the docket number. To determine compliance with deadlines in a hearing, a document is considered filed on the date it

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is actually received by the hearing clerk. When this part allows a response by a party to a submission and prescribes a period of time for the filing of the response, an additional 3 days are allowed for the filing of the response if the submission is served by mail.

(b) Each notice, order, decision, or other document issued under this part by the presiding officer, the judicial officer, or the Administrator shall be filed with the hearing clerk. The hearing clerk shall immediately serve all parties with a copy of such order, decision, or other document.

(c) At the same time that a party files any document with the hearing clerk, the party shall serve a copy thereof on each other party, unless the presiding officer specifies otherwise. Each filing shall be accompanied by a certificate of service, or a statement that service is not required. Service on a party is accomplished by mailing a submission to the address shown in the Notice of Participation or by personal delivery.

(d) The presiding officer may grant an extension of time for the filing of any pleading, document, or motion (1) Upon timely motion by a party, for good cause shown, and after consideration of prejudice to other parties, or (2) upon the presiding officer's own motion.

(e) A motion by a party for an extension may only be made after serving a copy of the motion on all other parties, unless the movant can show good cause why doing so is impracticable. The motion shall be filed in advance of the date on which the pleading, document, or motion is due to be filed, unless the failure of the party to make a timely motion for an extension was the result of excusable neglect.

§ 179.81 Availability of documents.

(a) All orders, decisions, pleadings, transcripts, exhibits, and other docket entries shall become part of the official docket and shall be retained by the hearing clerk. Except as otherwise provided by paragraph (b) of this section or part 2 of this chapter, all documents that are a part of the official docket shall be made available to the public for reasonable inspection during Agency business hours. Copies of such docu-

ments may be obtained by members of the public as provided in part 2 of this chapter.

(b) Whenever any information or data are required to be produced or examined in a hearing and any party makes a business confidentiality claim regarding such information under part 2 of this chapter, the availability of such information to the other parties or to the public shall be determined by EPA in accordance with part 2 of this chapter, including specifically the procedures and principles set forth in § 2.301(g)(3) and (g)(4) of this chapter. The presiding officer shall make the determinations with respect to the matters referred to in § 2.301(g)(3) and (g)(4) to the extent provided, and shall take such steps as are necessary for the protection of information entitled to confidential treatment or otherwise exempt from public disclosure, including issuance of protective orders to parties or taking testimony in a closed hearing.

§ 179.83 Disclosure of data and information.

(a) Within 60 days of the publication of the Notice of Hearing under § 179.20, or, if no party will be prejudiced, within another period set by the presiding officer, the Assistant Administrator shall file with the hearing clerk, in accordance with § 179.80, the following documents numbered and organized in the manner prescribed by the presiding officer:

(1) The portions of the administrative record of the proceeding developed under part 178 of this chapter, and under part 180 of this chapter, that are relevant to the issues in the hearing.

(2) All documents in the files of OPPTS containing factual information or expert opinion, whether favorable or unfavorable to the position of OPPTS, which relate to the issues involved in the hearing. For purposes of this paragraph, "files" means the principal files in OPPTS in which documents relating to each of the issues in the hearing are ordinarily kept. Documents that are internal memoranda reflecting the deliberative process, or are attorney work product, or were prepared specifically for use in connection with the