

Office of the Secretary, USDA

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or potential criminal or civil action related to such claim or statement, the judicial officer shall stay the process immediately.

(b) If the judicial officer stays the administrative process in accordance with paragraph (a) of this section, the judicial officer may order the process resumed only upon receipt of the written authorization of the Attorney General.

§ 1.340 Stay pending appeal.

(a) A decision is stayed automatically pending disposition of a motion for reconsideration or of an appeal to the judicial officer.

(b) The respondent may file with the ALJ a request for stay of the effective date of a decision of the judicial officer pending judicial review. Such request shall state the grounds upon which respondent relies in requesting the stay, together with a copy of the notice(s) of appeal filed by respondent seeking review of a decision of the judicial officer. The filing of such a request shall automatically stay the effective date of the decision of the judicial officer until the ALJ rules upon the request.

(c) The representative for the USDA may file an opposition to respondent's request for a stay within 10 days of receipt of the request. If the representative for the USDA fails to file such an opposition within the allotted time, or indicates that the USDA has no objection to the request, the ALJ may grant the stay without requiring respondent to give a bond or other security.

(d) The ALJ may grant a contested request where justice so requires and to the extent necessary to prevent irreparable harm but only upon the respondent's giving of a bond or other adequate security. The ALJ shall rule promptly on a contested request for stay.

(e) A decision of the ALJ denying respondent's request for a stay shall constitute final agency action.

§ 1.341 Judicial review.

Section 3805 of title 31, United States Code, authorizes judicial review by an appropriate United States District Court of a final decision of the judicial officer imposing penalties or assess-

ments under this part and specifies the procedures for such review.

§ 1.342 Collection of civil penalties and assessments.

Sections 3806 and 3808(b) of title 31, United States Code, authorize actions for collection of civil penalties and assessments imposed under this subpart and specify the procedures for such actions.

§ 1.343 Right to administrative offset.

The amount of any penalty or assessment which has become final, or for which a judgment has been entered under § 1.341 or § 1.342 of this part, or any amount agreed upon in a settlement under § 1.345 of this part, may be collected by administrative offset under 31 U.S.C. 3716, except that an administrative offset may not be made under this subsection against a refund of an overpayment of Federal taxes then or later owing by the United States to the respondent.

§ 1.344 Deposit to Treasury of the United States.

All amounts collected pursuant to this subpart shall be deposited as miscellaneous receipts in the Treasury of the United States.

§ 1.345 Settlement.

(a) A respondent may make offers of compromise of settlement at any time.

(b) The reviewing official has the exclusive authority to compromise or settle a case under this subpart at any time after the date on which the reviewing official is permitted to issue a complaint and before the date on which the ALJ issues a decision.

(c) The judicial officer has exclusive authority to compromise or settle a case under this subpart at any time after the date on which the ALJ issues a decision, except during the pendency of any appeal under § 1.341 of this part or during the pendency of any action to collect penalties and assessments under § 1.342 of this part.

(d) The Attorney General has exclusive authority to compromise or settle a case under this subpart during the pendency of any appeal under § 1.341 of

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this part, or any action to recover penalties and assessments under § 1.342 of this part.

(e) The investigating official may recommend settlement terms to the reviewing official, the judicial officer, or the Attorney General, as appropriate. The reviewing official may recommend settlement terms to the judicial officer, or the Attorney General, as appropriate.

(f) Any settlement must be in writing.

§ 1.346 Limitation.

The complaint referred to in § 1.307 of this part with respect to a claim or statement must be served in the manner specified in § 1.308 of this part within 6 years after the date on which such claim or statement is made.

Subpart M—Rules of Practice Governing Adjudication of Sourcing Area Applications and Formal Review of Sourcing Areas Pursuant to the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620 *et seq.*)

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 556 and 16 U.S.C. 620 *et seq.*

SOURCE: 59 FR 8824, Feb. 24, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1.410 Meaning of words.

As used in these procedures, words in the singular form shall be deemed to import the plural, and vice versa, as the circumstance may require.

§ 1.411 Definitions.

As used in these procedures, the terms as defined in the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, 16 U.S.C. 620 *et seq.* (Act) and in the regulations issued thereunder, shall apply with equal force and effect. In addition and except as may be provided otherwise in these procedures:

(a) *Applicant* or *Sourcing area applicant* means a person who submits a sourcing area application pursuant to these rules, or a person who sourcing

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area is subject to formal review pursuant to 36 CFR 223.191(e).

(b) *Decision* means:

(1) The Judge's initial decision made in accordance with the provisions of 5 U.S.C. 554, 556, 557, and 16 U.S.C. 620 *et seq.* and 36 CFR 223.190 and 223.191(e), which includes the Judge's findings and conclusions and the reasons or basis therefore on all material issues of fact, law or discretion, orders and rulings on proposed findings, conclusions and orders submitted by the parties; and

(2) The decision and order by the Judicial officer upon appeal of the Judge's decision.

(c) *Determination* is synonymous with *decision*.

(d) *Hearing* means that part of the proceeding which may be requested by a party of record, and which involves the submission of additional evidence before the Administrative Law Judge for the record in the proceeding.

(e) *Hearing Clerk* means the Office of the Hearing Clerk, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

(f) *Judge* means any Administrative Law Judge Appointed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3105 and assigned to the proceeding involved.

(g) *Judicial Officer* means an official of the United States Department of Agriculture delegated authority by the Secretary of Agriculture, pursuant to the Act of April 4, 1940 (7 U.S.C. 450c–459g) and Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953 (5 U.S.C. 1988 ed., appendix, p. 1280), to perform the function involved (7 CFR 235(a)), or the Secretary of Agriculture, if the authority so delegated is exercised by the Secretary.

(h) *Party of record* or *Party* is a party to the proceeding to determine approval or disapproval of a sourcing area application, including the proceeding for formal review of a sourcing area. The sourcing area applicant and persons who submit written comments on the sourcing area application at issue during the 30 calendar day comment period, including the Regional Forester, are the parties of record. For purposes of a formal review of a sourcing area, the holder of the sourcing area that is the subject of the review and persons who submit written