

been executed by complaint counsel and approved by the appropriate Bureau Director, and the matter is still pending before an Administrative Law Judge, the Secretary shall issue an order withdrawing from adjudication those portions of the matter that the proposal would resolve and all proceedings before the Administrative Law Judge shall be stayed with respect to such portions, pending a determination by the Commission pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section. If the matter is pending before the Commission, the Commission in its discretion may, on motion, issue an order withdrawing from adjudication those portions of the matter that a proposed consent agreement would resolve for the purpose of considering the proposed consent agreement.

(d) If the proposed consent agreement accompanying the motion has not been executed by complaint counsel, the Administrative Law Judge may certify the motion and agreement to the Commission together with his recommendation if he determines, in writing, that there is a likelihood of settlement. The filing of a motion under this subsection and certification thereof to the Commission shall not stay proceedings before the Administrative Law Judge unless the Administrative Law Judge or the Commission shall so order. Upon certification of a motion pursuant to this subsection, the Commission may, if it is satisfied that there is a likelihood of settlement, issue an order withdrawing from adjudication those portions of the matter that the proposal would resolve, for the purpose of considering the proposed consent agreement.

(e) The Commission will treat those portions of a matter withdrawn from adjudication pursuant to paragraph (c) or (d) of this section as being in a non-adjudicative status. Portions not so withdrawn shall remain in an adjudicative status.

(f) After some or all of allegations in a matter have been withdrawn from adjudication, the Commission may accept the proposed consent agreement, reject it and return the matter or affected portions thereof to adjudication for further proceedings or take such other action as it may deem appropriate. If

the agreement is accepted, it will be disposed of as provided in §2.34 of this chapter, except that if, following the public comment period provided for in §2.34, the Commission decides, based on comments received or otherwise, to withdraw its acceptance of such an agreement, it will so notify the parties and will return to adjudication any portions of the matter previously withdrawn from adjudication for further proceedings or take such other action it considers appropriate.

(g) This rule will not preclude the settlement of the case by regular adjudicatory process through the filing of an admission answer or submission of the case to the Administrative Law Judge on a stipulation of facts and an agreed order.

[40 FR 15236, Apr. 4, 1975, as amended at 42 FR 39659, Aug. 5, 1977; 50 FR 53305, Dec. 31, 1985; 54 FR 18885, May 3, 1989; 61 FR 50647, Sept. 26, 1996; 64 FR 46269, Aug. 25, 1999; 70 FR 67350, Nov. 7, 2005]

§3.26 Motions following denial of preliminary injunctive relief.

(a) This section sets forth two procedures by which respondents may obtain consideration of whether continuation of an adjudicative proceeding is in the public interest after a court has denied preliminary injunctive relief in a separate proceeding brought, under section 13(b) of the Federal Trade Commission Act, 15 U.S.C. 53(b), in aid of the adjudication.

(b) A motion under this section shall be addressed to the Commission and filed with the Secretary of the Commission. Such a motion must be filed within fourteen (14) days after:

(1) A district court has denied preliminary injunctive relief, all opportunity has passed for the Commission to seek reconsideration of the denial or to appeal it, and the Commission has neither sought reconsideration of the denial nor appealed it; or

(2) A court of appeals has denied preliminary injunctive relief.

(c) *Withdrawal from adjudication.* If a court has denied preliminary injunctive relief to the Commission in a section 13(b) proceeding brought in aid of an adjudicative proceeding, respondents may move that the adjudicative

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proceeding be withdrawn from adjudication in order to consider whether or not the public interest warrants further litigation. Such a motion shall be filed by all of the respondents in the adjudicative proceeding. The Secretary shall issue an order withdrawing the matter from adjudication two days after such a motion is filed, except that, if complaint counsel have objected that the conditions of paragraph (b) of this section have not been met, the Commission shall determine whether to withdraw the matter from adjudication.

(d) *Consideration on the record.* (1) In lieu of a motion to withdraw a matter from adjudication under paragraph (c) of this section, any respondent or respondents may file a motion under this paragraph to dismiss the administrative complaint on the basis that the public interest does not warrant further litigation after a court has denied preliminary injunctive relief to the Commission. Motions filed under this paragraph shall incorporate or be accompanied by a supporting brief or memorandum.

(2) *Stay.* A motion under this paragraph will stay all proceedings before the Administrative Law Judge until such time as the Commission directs otherwise.

(3) *Answer.* Within fourteen (14) days after service of a motion filed under this paragraph, complaint counsel may file an answer.

(4) *Form.* Motions (including any supporting briefs and memoranda) and answers under this paragraph shall not exceed 30 pages if printed, or 45 pages if typewritten, and shall comply with the requirements of § 3.52(e).

(5) *In camera materials.* If any filing includes materials that are subject to confidentiality protections pursuant to an order entered in either the proceeding under section 13(b) or in the proceeding under this part, such materials shall be treated as *In camera* materials for purposes of this paragraph and the party shall file two versions of the document in accordance with the procedures set forth in § 3.45(e). The time within which complaint counsel may file an answer under this paragraph will begin to run upon service of the *in camera* version of the motion (in-

cluding any supporting briefs and memoranda).

[60 FR 39641, Aug. 3, 1995]

Subpart D—Discovery; Compulsory Process

§ 3.31 General provisions.

(a) *Discovery methods.* Parties may obtain discovery by one or more of the following methods: Depositions upon oral examination or written questions; written interrogatories; production of documents or things for inspection and other purposes; and requests for admission. Unless the Administrative Law Judge orders otherwise, the frequency or sequence of these methods is not limited. The parties shall, to the greatest extent practicable, conduct discovery simultaneously; the fact that a party is conducting discovery shall not operate to delay any other party's discovery.

(b) *Initial disclosures.* Complaint counsel and respondent's counsel shall, within five (5) days of receipt of a respondent's answer to the complaint and without awaiting a discovery request, provide to each other:

(1) The name, and, if known, the address and telephone number of each individual likely to have discoverable information relevant to the allegations of the Commission's complaint, to the proposed relief, or to the defenses of the respondent, as set forth in § 3.31(c)(1);

(2) A copy of, or a description by category and location of, all documents, data compilations, and tangible things in the possession, custody, or control of the Commission or respondent(s) that are relevant to the allegations of the Commission's complaint, to the proposed relief, or to the defenses of the respondent, as set forth in § 3.31(c)(1); unless such information or materials are privileged as defined in § 3.31(c)(2), pertain to hearing preparation as defined in § 3.31(c)(3), pertain to experts as defined in § 3.31(c)(4), or are obtainable from some other source that is more convenient, less burdensome, or less expensive. A party shall make its disclosures based on the information then reasonably available to it