

part 4, subpart E, and any person who files a Notice of Joinder in an appeal under 30 CFR part 290, subpart B.

Payor means any person responsible for reporting and paying royalties for Federal oil and gas leases for production before September 1, 1996.

§ 4.904 When does my appeal commence and end?

For purposes of the period in which the Department must issue a final decision in your appeal under § 4.906:

(a) If you filed your Notice of Appeal and initial Statement of Reasons with MMS before August 13, 1996, your appeal commenced on August 13, 1996;

(b) If you filed your Notice of Appeal or initial Statement of Reasons with MMS after August 13, 1996, under 30 CFR part 290, in effect prior to May 13, 1999 and contained in the 30 CFR, parts 200 to 699, edition, revised as of July 1, 1998, your appeal commenced on the date MMS received your Notice of Appeal, or if later, the date MMS received your initial Statement of Reasons;

(c) If you filed your Notice of Appeal under 30 CFR part 290, subpart B, your appeal commenced on the date MMS received your Notice of Appeal.

(d) Your appeal ends on the same day of the month of the 33rd calendar month after your appeal commenced under paragraph (a), (b), or (c) of this section, plus the number of days of any applicable time extensions under § 4.909 or 30 CFR 290.109. If the 33rd calendar month after your appeal commenced does not have the same day of the month as the day of the month your appeal commenced, then the initial 33-month period ends on the last day of the 33rd calendar month.

§ 4.905 What if a due date falls on a day the Department or relevant office is not open for business?

If a due date under this subpart falls on a day the relevant office is not open for business (such as a weekend, Federal holiday, or shutdown), the due date is the next day the relevant office is open for business.

§ 4.906 What if the Department does not issue a decision by the date my appeal ends?

(a) If the IBLA or an Assistant Secretary (or the Secretary or the Director of OHA) does not issue a final decision by the date an appeal ends under § 4.904(d), then under 30 U.S.C. 1724(h)(2), the Secretary will be deemed to have decided the appeal:

(1) In favor of the appellant for any nonmonetary obligation at issue in the appeal, or any monetary obligation at issue in the appeal with a principal amount of less than \$10,000;

(2) In favor of the Secretary for any monetary obligation at issue in the appeal with a principal amount of \$10,000 or more.

(b)(1) If your appeal ends before the MMS Director issues a decision in your appeal, then the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section apply to the monetary and nonmonetary obligations in the order that you contested in your appeal to the Director.

(2) If the MMS Director issues a decision in your appeal before your appeal ends, and if you appealed the Director's decision to IBLA under 43 CFR part 4, subpart E, then the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section apply to the monetary and nonmonetary obligations in the Director's decision that you contested in your appeal to IBLA.

(3) If the MMS Director issues a decision in your appeal, and if you did not appeal the Director's decision to IBLA within the time required under 30 CFR part 290 in effect prior to May 13, 1999 and contained in the 30 CFR, parts 200 to 699, edition revised as of July 1, 1998 (for appeals filed before May 13, 1999 or 30 CFR part 290 subpart B (for appeals filed on or after May 13, 1999 and 43 CFR part 4, subpart E, then the MMS Director's decision is the final decision of the Department and 30 U.S.C. 1724(h)(2) has no application.

(c) If the IBLA issues a decision before the date your appeal ends, that decision is the final decision of the Department and 30 U.S.C. 1724(h)(2) has no application. A petition for reconsideration does not extend or renew the 33-month period.

(d) If any part of the principal amount of any monetary obligation is not specifically stated in an order or