

Subpart C—Hearing and Appeal Procedures

§ 11.21 Commencement of hearing procedures.

Proceedings under this subpart are commenced upon the timely filing with the Hearings Division of a request for a hearing, as provided in § 11.15 of subpart B. Upon receipt of a request for a hearing, the Hearings Division will assign an administrative law judge to the case. Notice of assignment will be given promptly to the parties, and thereafter, all pleadings, papers, and other documents in the proceeding shall be filed directly with the administrative law judge, with copies served on the opposing party.

§ 11.22 Appearance and practice.

(a) Subject to the provisions of 43 CFR 1.3, the respondent may appear in person, by representative, or by counsel, and may participate fully in these proceedings.

(b) Department counsel designated by the Solicitor of the Department shall represent the Director in these proceedings. Upon notice to the Director of the assignment of an administrative law judge to the case, said counsel shall enter his appearance on behalf of the Director and shall file all petitions and correspondence exchanged by the Director and the respondent pursuant to subpart B of this part, which shall become part of the hearing record. Thereinafter, service upon the Director in these proceedings shall be made to his counsel.

§ 11.23 Hearings.

(a) The administrative law judge shall have all powers accorded by law and necessary to preside over the parties and the proceedings and to make decisions in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 554–557. Failure to appear at the time set for hearing shall be deemed a waiver of the right to a hearing and consent to the making of a decision on the record made at the hearing. Copies of the transcript may be inspected or copied.

(b) The transcript of testimony, the exhibits, and all papers, documents, and requests filed in the proceedings, shall constitute the record for decision.

The judge will render a written decision upon the record, which shall set forth his findings of fact and conclusions of law, and the reasons and basis therefor, and an assessment of a penalty, if any.

§ 11.24 Final administrative action.

Unless a notice of request for an appeal is filed in accordance with § 11.25 of this subpart C, the administrative law judge's decision shall constitute the final administrative determination of the Secretary in the matter and shall become effective 30 calendar days from the date of the decision.

§ 11.25 Appeal.

(a) Either the respondent or the Director may seek an appeal from the decision of an administrative law judge rendered subsequent to January 1, 1974, by the filing of a "Notice of Request for Appeal" with the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203, within 30 calendar days of the date of the administrative law judge's decision. Such notice shall be accompanied by proof of service on the administrative law judge and the opposing party.

(b) Upon receipt of such a request, the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, shall appoint an ad hoc appeals board to determine whether an appeal should be granted, and to hear and decide an appeal. To the extent they are not inconsistent herewith, the provisions of subpart G of the Department Hearings and Appeals Procedures in 43 CFR part 4 shall apply to appeal proceedings under this subpart. The determination of the board to grant or deny an appeal, as well as its decision on the merits of an appeal, shall be in writing and become effective as the final administrative determination of the Secretary in the proceeding on the date it is rendered, unless otherwise specified therein.

§ 11.26 Reporting service.

Copies of decisions in civil penalty proceedings instituted under statutes referred to in subpart A of this part and rendered subsequent to June 3, 1970, may be obtained by letter of request addressed to the Director, Office