

made available to the appellant at actual costs.

**§ 7.32 Findings, analysis, and recommendations of hearing officer.**

If the hearing has been conducted by a designee of the Deputy Administrator, the hearing officer shall, within 60 days from date of receipt of the transcript transmit to the Deputy Administrator:

- (a) The record of the hearing;
- (b) The findings and analysis of the hearing officer; and
- (c) A recommended determination.

**§ 7.33 Determination of the Deputy Administrator.**

Within 30 days after receipt of the findings, analysis, and recommendations of the hearing officer that are made under § 7.32 of this part, or within 60 days from the date of receipt of the transcript prepared under such section if the Deputy Administrator conducted the hearing, the Deputy Administrator shall make a final determination. The notification shall clearly set forth the basis for the determination. The determination of the Deputy Administrator is final and not subject to further administrative review.

**§ 7.34 Custody and use of books, records, and documents.**

(a) All books, records, and documents of or used by the county committee in the administration of programs assigned to it, or in the conduct of elections, shall be the property of the Commodity Credit Corporation or the United States Department of Agriculture, as applicable, and shall be maintained in good order in the county office.

(b) For polling and mail type elections, ballots shall remain in sealed boxes until the prescribed date for counting. Following the counting of ballots in all types of elections, the ballots shall be placed in sealed containers and retained for 30 days unless otherwise determined by the State committee.

(c) The books, records, and documents referred to in paragraph (a) shall be available for use and examination:

(1) At all times by authorized representatives of the Secretary; the Ad-

ministrator, or a designee of the Administrator.

(2) By state, county, and community committee members, and authorized employees of the State and county office in the performance of duties assigned to them under this part, subject to instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator;

(3) At any reasonable time to any program participant insofar as such person's interests under the programs administered by the county committee may be affected, subject to instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator; and

(4) To any other person only in accordance with instructions issued by the Deputy Administrator.

**§ 7.35 Administrative operations.**

The administrative operations of county committees including but not limited to the following, shall be conducted, except as otherwise provided in these regulations, in accordance with official instructions issued: annual, sick, and other types of employee leave; location and use of the county committee office; the calling, and conduct of elections; and the maintenance of records of county and local committee meetings.

**§ 7.36 Implementation.**

Unless specifically provided in this part, the Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, or the Deputy Administrator, Management, ASCS, is authorized to issue the instructions and procedures referred to herein which implement the provisions of this part.

**§ 7.37 Applicability.**

This part shall apply to each State of the United States.

**§ 7.38 Retention of authority.**

Nothing in this part shall preclude the Secretary, the Administrator, or the Deputy Administrator from administering any or all programs or exercising other functions delegated to the community committee, county committee, State committee, or any employee of such committees. In exercising this authority, the Secretary,