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has ordered the appointment of a settlement judge.

(b) *Definition.* For purposes of this section, *settlement judge* means the administrative law judge appointed by the Chief Administrative Law Judge to conduct settlement negotiations under this section.

(c) *Requests for appointment of settlement judges.* (1) Any participant may file a motion requesting the appointment of a settlement judge with the presiding officer, or, if there is no presiding officer for the proceeding, with the Commission.

(2) A presiding officer may request the Chief Administrative Law Judge to appoint a settlement judge.

(3) A motion under paragraph (c)(1) of this section may be acted upon at any time, and the time limitations on answers in Rule 213(d) do not apply.

(4) Any answer or objection filed after a motion has been acted upon will not be considered.

(d) *Commission order directing appointment of settlement judge.* The Commission may, on motion or otherwise, order the Chief Administrative Law Judge to appoint a settlement judge.

(e) *Appointment of settlement judge by Chief Administrative Law Judge.* The Chief Administrative Law Judge may appoint a settlement judge for any proceeding, if requested by the presiding officer under paragraph (c)(2) of this section or if the presiding officer concurs in a motion made under paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(f) *Order appointing settlement judge.* The Chief Administrative Law Judge will appoint a settlement judge by an order, which specifies whether, and to what extent, the proceeding is suspended pending termination of settlement negotiations conducted in accordance with this section. The order may confine the scope of any settlement negotiations to specified issues.

(g) *Powers and duties of settlement judge.* (1) A settlement judge will convene and preside over conferences and settlement negotiations between the participants and assess the practicalities of a potential settlement.

(2)(i) A settlement judge will report to the Chief Administrative Law Judge or the Commission, as appropriate, de-

scribing the status of the settlement negotiations and evaluating settlement prospects.

(ii) In any such report, the settlement judge may recommend the termination or continuation of settlement negotiations conducted under this section.

(iii) The first report by the settlement judge will be made not later than 30 days after the appointment of the settlement judge. The Commission or the Chief Administrative Law Judge may order additional reports at any time.

(h) *Termination of settlement negotiations before a settlement judge.* Unless an order of the Commission directing the appointment of a settlement judge provides otherwise, settlement negotiations conducted under this section will terminate upon the order of the Chief Administrative Law Judge issued after consultation with the settlement judge.

(i) *Non-reviewability.* Any decision concerning the appointment of a settlement judge or the termination of any settlement negotiations is not subject to review by, appeal to, or rehearing by the presiding officer, Chief Administrative Law Judge, or the Commission.

(j) *Multiple settlement negotiations.* If settlement negotiations are terminated under paragraph (h) of this section, the Chief Administrative Law Judge may subsequently appoint a settlement judge in the same proceeding to conduct settlement negotiations in accordance with this section.

§ 385.604 Alternative means of dispute resolution (Rule 604).

(a) *Applicability.* (1) Participants may, subject to the limitations of paragraph (a)(2) of this section, use alternative means of dispute resolution to resolve all or part of any pending matter if the participants agree. The alternative means of dispute resolution authorized under subpart F of this part will be voluntary procedures that supplement rather than limit other available dispute resolution techniques.

(2) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, the decisional authority will not consent to use of an alternative dispute resolution proceeding if:

(i) A definitive or authoritative resolution of the matter is required for precedential value;

(ii) The matter involves or may bear upon significant questions of policy that require additional procedures before a final resolution may be made, and the proceeding would not likely serve to develop a recommended policy;

(iii) Maintaining established policies is of special importance;

(iv) The matter significantly affects persons or organizations who are not parties to the proceeding;

(v) A full public record of the proceeding is important, and a dispute resolution proceeding cannot provide a record; or

(vi) The Commission must maintain continuing jurisdiction over the matter with authority to alter the disposition of the matter in the light of changed circumstances, and a dispute resolution proceeding would interfere with the Commission's fulfilling that requirement.

(3) If one or more of the factors outlined in paragraph (a)(2) of this section is present, alternative dispute resolution may nevertheless be used if the alternative dispute resolution proceeding can be structured to avoid the identified factor or if other concerns significantly outweigh the identified factor.

(4) A determination to use or not to use a dispute resolution proceeding under subpart F of this part is not subject to judicial review.

(5) Settlement agreements reached through the use of alternative dispute resolution pursuant to subpart F of this part will be subject to the provisions of Rule 602, unless the decisional authority, upon motion or otherwise, orders a different procedure.

(b) *Definitions.* For the purposes of subpart F of this part:

(1) *Alternative means of dispute resolution* means any procedure that is used, in lieu of an adjudication, to resolve issues in controversy, including but not limited to, settlement negotiations, conciliation, facilitation, mediation, factfinding, minitrials, and arbitration, or any combination thereof;

(2) *Award* means any decision by an arbitrator resolving the issues in controversy;

(3) *Dispute resolution communication* means any oral or written communication prepared for the purposes of a dispute resolution proceeding, including any memoranda, notes or work product of the neutral, parties or non-party participant. A written agreement to enter into a dispute resolution proceeding, or a final written agreement or arbitral award reached as a result of a dispute resolution proceeding, is not a dispute resolution communication;

(4) *Dispute resolution proceeding* means any alternative means of dispute resolution that is used to resolve an issue in controversy in which a neutral may be appointed and specified parties participate;

(5) *In confidence* means information is provided:

(i) With the expressed intent of the source that it not be disclosed, or

(ii) Under circumstances that create a reasonable expectation on behalf of the source that the information will not be disclosed;

(6) *Issue in controversy* means an issue which is or is anticipated to be material to a decision in a proceeding before the Commission and which is the subject of disagreement between participants who would be substantially affected by the decision or between the Commission and any such participants;

(7) *Neutral* means an individual who, with respect to an issue in controversy, functions specifically to aid the parties in resolving the controversy;

(8) *Participants* in a dispute resolution proceeding that is used to resolve an issue in controversy in a proceeding involving an application for a license or exemption to construct, operate, and maintain a hydroelectric project pursuant to the Federal Power Act or the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act shall include such state and federal agencies and Indian tribes as have statutory roles or a direct interest in such hydroelectric proceedings.

(c) *Neutrals.* (1) A neutral may be a permanent or temporary officer or employee of the Federal Government (including an administrative law judge), or any other individual who is acceptable to the participants to a dispute resolution proceeding. A neutral must have no official, financial, or personal conflict of interest with respect to the

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issues in controversy, except that a neutral who is not a government employee may serve if the interest is fully disclosed in writing to all participants and all participants agree.

(2) A neutral serves at the will of the participants, unless otherwise provided.

(3) Neutrals may be selected from among the Commission's administrative law judges or other employees, from rosters kept by the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, the Administrative Conference of the United States, the American Arbitration Association, or from any other source.

(d) *Submission of proposal to use alternative means of dispute resolution.* (1) The participants may at any time submit a written proposal to use alternative means of dispute resolution to resolve all or part of any matter in controversy or anticipated to be in controversy before the Commission.

(2) For matters set for hearing under subpart E of this part, a proposal to use alternative means of dispute resolution must be filed with the presiding administrative law judge.

(3) For all other matters, a proposal to use alternative means of dispute resolution may be filed with the Secretary for consideration by the appropriate decisional authority.

(4) The appropriate decisional authority will issue an order, approving or denying, under the guidelines in Rule 604(a) (2) and (3), a proposal to use alternative means of dispute resolution. Denial of a proposal to use alternative dispute resolution will be in the form of an order and will identify the specific reasons for the denial. A proposal to use alternative dispute resolution is deemed approved unless an order denying approval is issued within 30 days after the proposal is filed.

(5) Any request to modify a previously-approved ADR proposal must follow the same procedure used for the initial approval.

(e) *Contents of proposal.* A proposal to use alternative means of dispute resolution must be in writing and include:

(1) A general identification of the issues in controversy intended to be resolved by the proposed alternative dispute resolution method,

(2) A description of the alternative dispute resolution method(s) to be used,

(3) The signatures of all participants or evidence otherwise indicating the consent of all participants; and

(4) A certificate of service pursuant to Rule 2010(h).

(f) *Monitoring the alternative dispute resolution proceeding.* The decisional authority may order reports on the status of the alternative dispute resolution proceeding at any time.

[Order 578, 60 FR 19506, Apr. 19, 1995, as amended by Order 602, 64 FR 17099, Apr. 8, 1999]

§ 385.605 Arbitration (Rule 605).

(a) *Authorization of arbitration.* (1) The participants may at any time submit a written proposal to use binding arbitration under the provisions of Rule 605 to resolve all or part of any matter in controversy, or anticipated to be in controversy, before the Commission.

(2) The proposal must be submitted as provided in Rule 604(d).

(3) The proposal must be in writing and contain the information required in Rule 604(e).

(4) An arbitration proceeding under this rule may be monitored as provided in Rule 604(f).

(5) No person may be required to consent to arbitration as a condition of entering into a contract or obtaining a benefit. All interested parties must expressly consent before arbitration may be used.

(b) *Arbitrators.* (1) The participants to an arbitration proceeding are entitled to select the arbitrator.

(2) The arbitrator must be a neutral who meets the criteria of a neutral under Rule 604(c).

(c) *Authority of arbitrator.* An arbitrator to whom a dispute is referred under this section may:

(1) Regulate the course of and conduct arbitral hearings;

(2) Administer oaths and affirmations;

(3) Compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of evidence to the extent the Commission is authorized by law to do so; and

(4) Make awards.

(d) *Arbitration proceedings.* (1) The arbitrator will set a time and place for