

§ 221.25

(d) *Page limits.* (1) For each disputed factual issue, the information provided under paragraph (b)(1) of this section may not exceed two pages.

(2) For each witness, the information provided under paragraph (c)(1) of this section may not exceed one page.

(e) *Notice in lieu of answer.* If NMFS elects not to file an answer to a hearing request:

(1) NMFS is deemed to agree that the issues listed by the requester are factual, material, and in dispute;

(2) NMFS may file a list of witnesses and exhibits with respect to the request only as provided in § 221.42(b); and

(3) NMFS must file a notice containing the information required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section, if the hearing request will be consolidated with one or more other hearing requests under § 221.23.

§ 221.25 What will NMFS do with any hearing requests?

(a) *Case referral.* Within 50 days after the deadline in § 221.21(a), NMFS will refer the case for a hearing as follows:

(1) If the hearing is to be conducted by NMFS, NMFS will refer the case to the Department of Commerce's designated ALJ office.

(2) If the hearing is to be conducted by another Department, NMFS will refer the case to the hearings component used by that Department.

(b) *Content.* The case referral will consist of the following:

(1) A copy of any preliminary prescription under § 221.20;

(2) The original of any hearing request under § 221.21;

(3) The original of any notice of intervention and response under § 221.22;

(4) The original of any answer under § 221.24; and

(5) An original referral notice under paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Notice.* At the time NMFS refers the case for a hearing, it must provide a referral notice that contains the following information:

(1) The name, address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the Department hearings component that will conduct the hearing;

(2) The name, address, and other contact information for the representative of each party to the hearing process;

(3) An identification of any other hearing request that will be consolidated with this hearing request; and

(4) The date on which NMFS is referring the case for docketing.

(d) *Delivery and service.* (1) NMFS must refer the case to the appropriate Department hearings component by one of the methods identified in § 221.12(b)(1)(i) through (b)(1)(ii).

(2) NMFS must serve a copy of the referral notice on FERC and each party to the hearing by one of the methods identified in § 221.13(c)(1) and (c)(2).

§ 221.26 What regulations apply to a case referred for a hearing?

(a) If NMFS refers the case to the Department of Commerce's designated ALJ office, the regulations in this subpart will continue to apply to the hearing process.

(b) If NMFS refers the case to the United States Department of Agriculture's Office of Administrative Law Judges, the regulations at 7 CFR 1.601 *et seq.* will apply from that point on.

(c) If NMFS refers the case to the Department of the Interior's Office of Hearings and Appeals, the regulations at 43 CFR 45.1 *et seq.* will apply from that point on.

GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATED TO HEARINGS

§ 221.30 What will the Department of Commerce's designated ALJ office do with a case referral?

Within 5 days after issuance of the referral notice under § 221.25(c), 7 CFR 1.625(c), or 43 CFR 45.25(c):

(a) The Department of Commerce's designated ALJ office must:

(1) Docket the case;

(2) Assign an ALJ to preside over the hearing process and issue a decision; and

(3) Issue a docketing notice that informs the parties of the docket number and the ALJ assigned to the case; and

(b) The ALJ must issue a notice setting the time, place, and method for conducting an initial prehearing conference under § 221.40. This notice may be combined with the docketing notice under paragraph (a)(3) of this section.