

§ 47.12

that, for other good cause, such examiner should not act, the powers and duties to be performed by the examiner under these rules of practice in connection with such proceeding may, subject to the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, be assigned to another examiner.

[10 FR 2212, Feb. 27, 1945; 11 FR 224, Jan. 4, 1946, as amended at 24 FR 10055, Dec. 12, 1959; 38 FR 30445, Nov. 5, 1973; 60 FR 8459, Feb. 14, 1995; 64 FR 38106, July 15, 1999]

§ 47.12 Intervention.

At any time after the institution of a proceeding and before it has been submitted to the Secretary for final consideration, the Secretary or the examiner as defined in § 47.2(i)(1) may, upon petition in writing and for good cause show, permit any person to intervene therein. The petition shall state with preciseness and particularity:

(a) The petitioner's relationship to the matters involved in the proceeding; (b) the nature of the material the petitioner intends to present in evidence; (c) the nature of the argument the petitioner intends to make; and (d) any other reason that the petitioner should be allowed to intervene.

[10 FR 2209, Feb. 27, 1945, as amended at 60 FR 8459, Feb. 14, 1995; 64 FR 38107, July 15, 1999]

§ 47.13 Motions and requests.

(a) *General.* (1) All motions and requests made after the formal filing of the proceeding with the Hearing Clerk shall be filed with the Hearing Clerk, except that those made during an oral hearing may be stated orally and made a part of the transcript or recording.

(2) The examiner may rule upon all motions and requests filed or made prior to the transmittal of the record to the Secretary as hereinafter provided. The Secretary shall rule upon all motions and requests filed after that time.

(b) *Certification to the Secretary.* The submission or certification of any motion, request, objection, or other question to the Secretary prior to transmittal of the record to the Secretary as provided in this part shall be made by and in the discretion of the examiner. The examiner may either rule upon or certify the motion, request, objection,

7 CFR Ch. I (1-1-13 Edition)

or other question to the Secretary, but not both.

[10 FR 2209, Feb. 27, 1945; 11 FR 224, Jan. 4, 1946, as amended at 38 FR 30445, Nov. 5, 1973; 60 FR 8459, Feb. 14, 1995]

§ 47.14 Prehearing conferences.

(a) In any proceeding in which it appears that a conference will expedite the proceeding, the examiner, at any time prior to or during the course of the oral hearing, may request the parties or their counsel to appear at a conference before the examiner to consider:

- (1) The simplification of the issues;
- (2) The necessity or the desirability of amendments to the pleadings;
- (3) The possibility of obtaining stipulations of fact and of documents which will avoid unnecessary proof;
- (4) The limitation of the number of expert or other witnesses; or
- (5) Such other matters as may expedite and aid in the disposition of the proceeding.

(b) No transcript or recording of the conference shall be made. If the conference is conducted by correspondence, the examiner shall forward copies of letters and documents to the parties as circumstances require. The correspondence in connection with a conference shall not be part of the record. The examiner shall prepare and file for the record a written summary of the action agreed upon or taken at the conference, which shall incorporate any written stipulations or agreements made by the parties at the conference or as a result of the conference.

(c) *Manner of the Conference.* (1) The conference shall be conducted by telephone or correspondence unless the examiner determines that conducting the conference by audio-visual telecommunication:

- (i) Is necessary to prevent prejudice to a party;
- (ii) Is necessary because of a disability of any individual expected to participate in the conference; or
- (iii) Would cost less than conducting the conference by telephone or correspondence. If the examiner determines that a conference conducted by audio-visual telecommunication would measurably increase the United States Department of Agriculture's cost of