

## **§ 1b.1**

## **18 CFR Ch. I (4–1–14 Edition)**

### **§ 1b.1 Definitions.**

For purposes of this part—

(a) *Formal investigation* means an investigation instituted by a Commission Order of Investigation.

(b) *Preliminary Investigation* means an inquiry conducted by the Commission or its staff, other than a formal investigation.

(c) Investigating officer means the individual(s) designated by the Commission in an Order of Investigation as Officer(s) of the Commission.

(d) *Enforcement Hotline* is a forum in which to address quickly and informally any matter within the Commission's jurisdiction concerning natural gas pipelines, oil pipelines, electric utilities and hydroelectric projects.

[43 FR 27174, June 23, 1978, as amended by Order 602, 64 FR 17097, Apr. 8, 1999]

### **§ 1b.2 Scope.**

This part applies to investigations conducted by the Commission but does not apply to adjudicative proceedings.

### **§ 1b.3 Scope of investigations.**

The Commission may conduct investigations relating to any matter subject to its jurisdiction.

### **§ 1b.4 Types of investigations.**

Investigations may be formal or preliminary, and public or private.

### **§ 1b.5 Formal investigations.**

The Commission may, in its discretion, initiate a formal investigation by issuing an Order of Investigation. Orders of Investigation will outline the basis for the investigation, the matters to be investigated, the officer(s) designated to conduct the investigation and their authority. The director of the office responsible for the investigation may add or delete Investigating Officers in the Order of Investigation.

### **§ 1b.6 Preliminary investigations.**

The Commission or its staff may, in its discretion, initiate a preliminary investigation. In such investigations, no process is issued or testimony compelled. Where it appears from the preliminary investigation that a formal investigation is appropriate, the staff will so recommend to the Commission.

### **§ 1b.7 Procedure after investigation.**

Where it appears that there has been or may be a violation of any of the provisions of the acts administered by the Commission or the rules, opinions or orders thereunder, the Commission may institute administrative proceedings, initiate injunctive proceedings in the courts, refer matters, where appropriate, to the other governmental authorities, or take other appropriate action.

### **§ 1b.8 Requests for Commission investigations.**

(a) Any individual, partnership, corporation, association, organization, or other Federal or State governmental entity, may request the Commission to institute an investigation.

(b) Requests for investigations should set forth the alleged violation of law with supporting documentation and information as completely as possible. No particular forms or formal procedures are requested.

(c) It is the Commission's policy not to disclose the name of the person or entity requesting an investigation except as required by law, or where such disclosure will aid the investigation.

### **§ 1b.9 Confidentiality of investigations.**

All information and documents obtained during the course of an investigation, whether or not obtained pursuant to subpoena, and all investigative proceedings shall be treated as nonpublic by the Commission and its staff except to the extent that (a) the Commission directs or authorizes the public disclosure of the investigation; (b) the information or documents are made a matter of public record during the course of an adjudicatory proceeding; or (c) disclosure is required by the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552. Procedures by which persons submitting information to the Commission during the course of an investigation may specifically seek confidential treatment of information for purposes of Freedom of Information Act disclosure are set forth in 18 CFR part 3b and § 1b.20. A request for confidential treatment of information for purposes of Freedom of Information Act disclosure shall not, however, prevent disclosure for law enforcement