

(2) Paragraph (b) of this section does not constitute authority to withhold information from Congress.

(d) *Violations of ex parte rules.* (1) Upon notice of a communication knowingly made or knowingly caused to be made by a participant in violation of paragraph (b) of this section, the Commission or presiding officer at the hearing may, to the extent consistent with the interests of justice and the policy of the underlying statutes, require the participant to show cause why his/her claim or interest in the proceeding should not be dismissed, denied, disregarded, or otherwise adversely affected on account of such violation.

(2) The Commission may, to the extent consistent with the interests of justice and the policy of the underlying statutes administered by the Commission, consider a violation of paragraph (b) of this section sufficient grounds for a decision adverse to a party who has knowingly committed such violation or knowingly caused such violation to occur.

[45 FR 65580, Oct. 3, 1980, as amended at 58 FR 38976, July 21, 1993; 62 FR 45530, Aug. 28, 1997; 65 FR 6539, Feb. 10, 2000; 77 FR 6679, Feb. 9, 2012; 78 FR 36436, June 18, 2013; 79 FR 23916, Apr. 29, 2014]

§3001.8 No participation by investigative or prosecuting officers.

In any proceeding noticed pursuant to §3001.17, no officer, employee or agent of the Commission who appears in the hearing in a proceeding before the Commission as an attorney or witness or who actively participates in the preparation of evidence or argument presented by such persons, shall participate or advise as to the intermediate decision or Commission decision in that proceeding except as a witness or counsel in public proceedings.

§3001.9 Filing of documents.

(a) *Filing with the Commission.* The filing of each written document required or authorized by these rules or any applicable statute, rule, regulation, or order of the Commission, or by direction of the presiding officer, shall be made using the Internet (Filing Online) pursuant to §3001.10(a) at the Commission's Web site (<http://www.prc.gov>), un-

less a waiver is obtained. If a waiver is obtained, a hard copy document may be filed either by mailing or by hand delivery to the Office of Secretary and Administration, Postal Regulatory Commission, 901 New York Avenue NW., Suite 200, Washington, DC 20268-0001 during regular business hours on a date no later than that specified for such filing. The requirements of this section do not apply to participants other than the Postal Service in proceedings conducted pursuant to part 3025 of this chapter.

(b) *Account holder.* In order for a document to be accepted using Filing Online, it must be submitted to the Commission by a principal account holder or an agent account holder (Filing Online account holder). The authority of the principal account holder to represent the participant on whose behalf the document is filed must be valid and current, in conformance with §3001.6. The authority of an agent account holder to submit documents for a principal account holder must be valid and current. A principal account holder must promptly inform the Secretary of any change in his/her authority to represent participants in a proceeding or any change in the authority delegated to an agent account holder to submit documents on his/her behalf.

(c) *Acceptance for filing.* Only such documents as conform to the requirements of this part and any other applicable rule or order authorized by the Commission shall be accepted for filing. In order for a document to be accepted using Filing Online, it must be submitted to the Commission by a Filing Online account holder.

(1) Subject to §3001.9(d):

(i) A document submitted through Filing Online is filed on the date indicated on the receipt issued by the Secretary. It is accepted when the Secretary, after review, has posted it on the Daily Listing page of the Commission's Web site.

(ii) A hardcopy document is filed on the date stamped by the Secretary. It is accepted when the Secretary, after review, has posted it on the Daily Listing page of the Commission's Web site.

(2) Any document received after the close of regular business hours or on a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday,

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shall be deemed to be filed on the next regular business day.

(d) *Rejected filings.* Any filing that does not comply with any applicable rule or order authorized by the Commission may be rejected. Any filing that is rejected is deemed not to have been filed with the Commission. If a filing is rejected, the Secretary or the Secretary's designee will notify the person submitting the filing, indicating the reason(s) for rejection. Acceptance for filing shall not waive any failure to comply with this part, and such failure may be cause for subsequently striking all or any part of any document.

(e) *Account holder exemptions.* Notices of intervention and comments solicited by the Commission may be filed under temporary Filing Online accounts. Temporary Filing Online accounts may be obtained without meeting all of the requirements of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, and the subscription requirements of §3001.11(e). Other categories of documents may be filed under temporary Filing Online accounts under extraordinary circumstances, for good cause shown.

[67 FR 67559, Nov. 6, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 47, Jan. 2, 2003; 77 FR 6679, Feb. 9, 2012; 78 FR 36437, June 18, 2013]

§3001.10 Form and number of copies of documents.

(a) *Documents.* Each document filed with the Commission must be submitted through Filing Online by an account holder, unless a waiver is obtained.

(1) The text of documents filed with the Commission shall be formatted in not less than one and one-half spaced lines except that footnotes and quotations may be single spaced. Documents must be submitted in Arial 12 point font, or such program, format, or font as the presiding officer may designate.

(2) The Secretary may prescribe additional format requirements for documents submitted through Filing Online.

(3) The form of documents filed as library references is governed by §3001.31(b)(2)(iv).

(4) Documents filed online must satisfy Filing Online system compat-

ibility requirements specified by the Secretary in the Filing Online User Guide, which may be accessed from the Filing Online page on the Commission's Web site, <http://www.prc.gov>.

(5) Documents requiring privileged or protected treatment shall not be filed online.

(6) Documents requiring privileged or protected treatment shall not be filed online.

(b) *Hard copies.* Each document filed in paper form must be produced on letter-size paper, 8 to 8½ inches wide by 10½ to 11 inches long, with left- and right-hand margins not less than 1 inch and other margins not less than .75 inches, except that tables, charts or special documents attached thereto may be larger if required, provided that they are folded to the size of the document to which they are attached. If the document is bound, it shall be bound on the left side. Copies of documents for filing and service must be printed from a text-based pdf version of the document, where possible. Otherwise, they may be reproduced by any duplicating process that produces clear and legible copies. Each person filing a hardcopy document with the Commission must provide an original and two fully conformed copies of the document required or permitted to be filed under this part, except for a document filed under seal, for which only the original and two (2) copies need be filed. The copies need not be signed but shall show the full name of the individual signing the original document and the certificate of service attached thereto.

(c) *Computer media.* A participant that has obtained a waiver of the online filing requirement of §3001.9(a) may submit a document on standard PC media, simultaneously with the filing of one printed original and two hard copies, provided that the stored document is a file generated in either Acrobat (pdf), Word, WordPerfect, or Rich Text Format (rtf).

(d) *Exception for appeals of post office closings and consolidations.* The requirements of this section do not apply to participants other than the Postal