

§ 845.2

§ 845.2 Nature of hearing.

Transportation accident hearings are convened to assist the Board in determining cause or probable cause of an accident, in reporting the facts, conditions, and circumstances of the accident, and in ascertaining measures which will tend to prevent accidents and promote transportation safety. Such hearings are factfinding proceedings with no formal issues and no adverse parties and are not subject to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (Pub. L. 89-554, 80 Stat. 384 (5 U.S.C. 554)).

[44 FR 34419, June 14, 1979; 44 FR 39181, July 5, 1979]

§ 845.3 Sessions open to the public.

(a) All hearings shall normally be open to the public (subject to the provision that any person present shall not be allowed at any time to interfere with the proper and orderly functioning of the board of inquiry).

(b) Sessions shall not be open to the public when evidence of a classified nature or which affects national security is to be received.

Subpart A—Initial Procedure

§ 845.10 Determination to hold hearing.

The Board may order a public hearing as part of an accident investigation whenever such hearing is deemed necessary in the public interest: *Provided*, that if a quorum of the Board is not immediately available in the event of a catastrophic accident, the determination to hold a public hearing may be made by the Chairman of the Board.

§ 845.11 Board of inquiry.

The board of inquiry shall consist of a Member of the Board who shall be chairman of the board of inquiry, and such other employees as may be designated by the chairman of the board of inquiry. Assignment of a Member to serve as the chairman of each board of inquiry shall be determined by the Board. The board of inquiry shall examine witnesses and secure, in the form of a public record, all known facts pertaining to the accident or incident and surrounding circumstances and

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conditions from which cause or probable cause may be determined and recommendations for corrective action may be formulated.

[49 FR 32853, Aug. 17, 1984]

§ 845.12 Notice of hearing.

The chairman of the board of inquiry shall designate a time and place for the hearing which meets the needs of the Board. Notice to all known interested persons shall be given.

§ 845.13 Designation of parties.

(a) The chairman of the board of inquiry shall designate as parties to the hearing those persons, agencies, companies, and associations whose participation in the hearing is deemed necessary in the public interest and whose special knowledge will contribute to the development of pertinent evidence. Parties shall be represented by suitable qualified technical employees or members who do not occupy legal positions.

(b) No party shall be represented by any person who also represents claimants or insurers. Failure to comply with this provision shall result in loss of status as a party.

[44 FR 34419, June 14, 1979, as amended at 51 FR 7278, Mar. 3, 1986]

Subpart B—Conduct of Hearing

§ 845.20 Powers of chairman of board of inquiry.

The chairman of the board of inquiry, or his designee, shall have the following powers:

(a) To designate parties to the hearing and revoke such designations;

(b) To open, continue, or adjourn the hearing;

(c) To determine the admissibility of and to receive evidence and to regulate the course of the hearing;

(d) To dispose of procedural requests or similar matters; and

(e) To take any other action necessary or incident to the orderly conduct of the hearing.

[44 FR 34419, June 14, 1979; 44 FR 39181, July 5, 1979]