



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

CERTIFIED MAIL-RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Article numbers: 7016 0910 0000 4441 6605
7016 0910 0000 4441 6599

Mr. Jim Bell
Chief Executive Office and President
Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C.
700 East Butterfield Road – Suite 201
Lombard, Illinois 60148-5671

Mr. John P. Schantz III
Branch Health and Environmental Safety Manager
Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C.
1 Eden Lane
Flanders, New Jersey 07836

In the Matter of Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C.

Docket No.: RCRA-02-2019-7106

Dear Mr. Bell and Mr. Schantz:

Enclosed is the Complaint, Compliance Order and Opportunity for Hearing in the above-referenced proceeding. The Complaint alleges violations of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6901 et seq.

You have the right to a formal hearing to contest any of the allegations in the Complaint and/or to contest the penalty proposed in the Complaint. If you wish to contest the allegations and/or the penalty proposed in the Complaint, you must file an Answer within thirty (30) days of your receipt of the enclosed Complaint with the Regional Hearing Clerk of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 2, at the following address:

Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 16th floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

If you do not file an Answer within thirty (30) days of receipt of this Complaint and have not obtained a formal extension for filing an Answer from the Regional Judicial Officer of Region 2, a default order may be entered against you and the entire proposed penalty may be assessed.

Whether or not you request a formal hearing, you may request an informal conference with EPA to discuss any issue relating to the alleged violations and the amount of the proposed penalty. EPA encourages all parties against whom it files a Complaint to pursue the possibility of settlement and to have an informal conference with EPA. However, a request for an informal conference does not substitute for a written Answer, affect what you may choose to say in an Answer, or extend the thirty (30) days by which you must file an Answer requesting a hearing.

You will find enclosed a copy of the Consolidated Rules of Practice, which govern this proceeding. (A brief discussion of some of these rules appears in the latter part of the Complaint.)

EPA encourages the use of Supplemental Environmental Projects, where appropriate, as part of any settlement. I am enclosing a brochure on EPA's Supplemental Environmental Projects Policy. Please note that these are only available as part of a negotiated settlement and are not available if this case has to be resolved by a formal adjudication.

If you have any questions or wish to schedule an informal conference, please contact the attorney whose name is listed in the Complaint.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dore LaPosta". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "L".

Dore LaPosta, Director
Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance

Enclosures

cc: Karen Maples, Regional Hearing Clerk (without enclosures)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region 2

In the Matter of

Veolia ES Technical
Solutions, L.L.C.

Respondent.

Proceeding under Section 3008 of the
Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended.

**COMPLAINT, COMPLIANCE ORDER,
AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY
FOR HEARING**

Docket Number RCRA-02-2019-7106

I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT: AUTHORIZED HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM

Pursuant to Section 3006(b) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 6926(b), the State of New Jersey was authorized by EPA to conduct a hazardous waste program (the "authorized State Program"). 64 *Fed. Reg.* 41823 (August 2, 1999). Prior to February 14, 2003, the authorized State Program incorporated by reference, with some minor modifications, the federal program at 40 Code of Federal Regulations (C.F.R.) Parts 124, 260-266, 268 and 270, as set forth in the 1993 edition. As of February 14, 2003, however, the scope of the State's authorized program was expanded by EPA's authorization of New Jersey's regulations incorporating by reference regulations promulgated by EPA between July 2, 1993 and July 31, 1998. 67 *Fed. Reg.* 76995 (December 16, 2002). At present, the authorized State Program, with some minor modifications, essentially incorporates by reference the regulations in the 1998 edition of the same Parts of Title 40 of the C.F.R. New Jersey's authorized regulations that constitute the original State Program, authorized in 1999, can be found in the New Jersey Register. *See* 28 N.J.R. 4606 (October 21, 1996). The regulations authorized in 2002 can be found at 31 N.J.R. 166 (January 19, 1999). New Jersey is not authorized for any regulations that the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) adopted after July 31, 1998. EPA is authorized to enforce the provisions of the authorized State program and retains primary responsibility for requirements promulgated pursuant to the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 since July 31, 1998.

II. COMPLAINT

As and for her complaint against Respondent, Complainant, by and through her counsel, hereby alleges:

1. This administrative proceeding has been instituted pursuant to Section 3008 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by various laws including the 1976 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA") and the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments of 1984 ("HSWA"), 42 U.S.C. §§ 6901 *et seq.* (referred to collectively as the "Act").

2. EPA has promulgated regulations governing the handling and management of hazardous waste, which regulations are codified at 40 C.F.R. Parts 260 - 273 and 279.
3. Complainant in this proceeding is the Director of the Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance of EPA, Region 2.

Jurisdiction

4. This Tribunal has jurisdiction over the subject matter of this proceeding pursuant to Section 3008(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), and 40 C.F.R. § 22.1(a)(4).
5. Notice in accordance with the provision of Section 3008(a)(2) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(2), has been provided to the State of New Jersey.
6. Complainant has been duly delegated the authority to commence this proceeding.

Operative Legal Authority

7. Section 3008(a)(1) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(1) provides, in pertinent part, that “whenever on the basis of any information [EPA] determines that any person has violated or is in violation of any requirement of this subchapter [Subchapter III, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6921-6939g], [EPA] may issue an order assessing a civil penalty for any past or current violation, requiring compliance immediately or within a specified time period, or both....”
8. Section 3008(a)(3) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3) provides, in pertinent part, “Any penalty assessed in the order [issued pursuant to Section 3008(a) of RCRA, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)] shall not exceed \$25,000 per day of noncompliance for each violation of a requirement of this subchapter.”
9. Pursuant to the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-410, 104 Stat. 890), as amended by the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015 (Pub. L. 114-74, 129 Stat. 599; codified at 28 U.S.C. § 2461 note), the maximum statutory penalty under Section 3008(a)(3) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3), is \$97,229 per day for each violation that occurs after November 2, 2015 and for which a penalty is assessed after January 15, 2018. 40 C.F.R. Part 19; 83 *Fed. Reg.* 1190 (January 10, 2018).
10. Pursuant to Section 3006(d) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6926(d), a violation of a requirement set forth within a permit issued under authority of a hazardous waste program EPA has authorized a State to conduct pursuant to Section 3006(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6926(b), constitutes a “violation of any requirement of this subchapter [Subchapter III, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6921-6939g]” within the meaning of Section 3008(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a).

Respondent’s Background

11. Respondent is Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C.

12. Respondent is a limited liability company that has existed since at least January 1, 2008 and which was organized under the laws of the State of Delaware with its principal office in the State of Illinois.
13. Since at least January 1, 2008, Respondent has been, and continues to be, a “person” as that term is defined in Section 1004(15) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6903(15) and 40 C.F.R. § 260.10 (1993)(N.J.A.C. 7:26G-4.1(a)).
14. Respondent operates as a subsidiary of Veolia Environmental Services North America Corp.
15. Since sometime prior to January 1, 2018, Respondent has provided (and continues to provide) “hazardous waste” (as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 260.10 (1993)(N.J.A.C. 7:26G-4.1(a)) services.
16. Since January 1, 2008, Respondent has been, and continues to be, the “owner” [as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 260.10 (1993)(N.J.A.C. 7:26G-4.1(a))] and “operator” [as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 260.10 (1993)(N.J.A.C. 7:26G-4.1(a))] of a hazardous waste storage and treatment facility located at 125 Factory Lane, Middlesex, New Jersey 08846 (hereinafter the “Middlesex facility”).
17. Since January 1, 2008, Respondent, in its operations at the Middlesex facility, has been, and continues to be, a “generator” [as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 260.10 (1993)(N.J.A.C. 7:26G-4.1(a))] of hazardous waste.
18. Since January 1, 2008, the Middlesex facility has been, and continues to be, a “facility” [as that term is defined in 40 C.F.R. § 260.10(1993) (N.J.A.C. 7:26G-4.1(a))].
19. Since January 1, 2008, Respondent, in its operations at the Middlesex facility, has placed, and continues to place, hazardous waste in hazardous waste storage tanks.

Notifications of Hazardous Waste Generation

20. On or about July 17, 1980, Marisol Incorporated (“Marisol”) submitted to EPA a Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity (the “July 1980 Notification”) requesting an EPA Identification Number for hazardous waste activities it would be conducting at the Middlesex facility.
21. In response to the July 1980 Notification, EPA provided Marisol with EPA Identification Number NJD002454544 (sometimes written as NJD 002 454 544).
22. On or about October 22, 2007, Respondent submitted to EPA a Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity in which it indicated it would be: (a) assuming legal ownership of the Middlesex facility on January 1, 2008, and (b) continuing operations at the Middlesex facility as a hazardous waste storage, treatment and transfer facility.
23. Notwithstanding the change in legal ownership of the Middlesex facility as of January 1, 2008, said facility retained EPA Identification Number NJD002454544.

Permitting History of the Middlesex Facility

24. On or about June 4, 2002, EPA issued a HSWA permit (“2002 HSWA permit”) to Marisol for the continued operation of the Middlesex facility as a hazardous waste treatment and storage facility.
25. The 2002 HSWA permit pertained to those operations and processes at the Middlesex facility governed by HSWA regulations for which the State of New Jersey had not been authorized pursuant to Section 3006(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6926(b).
26. Pursuant to letter dated December 21, 2007, EPA informed Marisol and Respondent that it approved “a permit modification of the HSWA permit to transfer ownership and operation of the [Middlesex facility] from Marisol to [Respondent].”
27. The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) in 1997 issued to Marisol a permit to operate the Middlesex facility as a “hazardous waste storage, treatment and transfer and solid waste transfer facility” (the 1997 NJDEP permit).
28. The 1997 NJDEP permit pertained to those operations and processes at the Middlesex facility governed by the hazardous waste regulations for which the State of New Jersey had been authorized pursuant to Section 3006(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6926(b).
29. NJDEP has modified the 1997 NJDEP permit on a number of occasions, including by Permit Number HWP120005 (issued August 10, 2012, expiration on November 27, 2013) and Permit Number HWP130001 (issued September 30, 2014, effective October 30, 2014, expiration date October 30, 2019).
30. Following submittals, dated October 1, 2007 and December 13, 2007, by Respondent, the Bureau of Landfill and Hazardous Waste Permitting (“Bureau”) of NJDEP, by letter dated December 21, 2007 to Marisol, acknowledged that Respondent, effective December 31, 2007, would become “the sole owner/operator of the [Middlesex] facility” and confirmed its (the Bureau’s) issuance of a “permit modification for the transfer of the permit [for the Middlesex facility] from Marisol...to [Respondent].”
31. The permit modification of which NJDEP informed Marisol by letter dated December 21, 2007 pertained to those operations and processes at the Middlesex facility governed by the hazardous waste regulations for which the State of New Jersey had been authorized pursuant to Section 3006(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6926(b).
32. On or about February 12, 2016, NJDEP issued to Respondent a Class 1 permit modification, bearing Permit Number HWP150001, which permit became effective February 12, 2016 and which is set to expire October 30, 2019.
33. Permit Number HWP150001 constitutes a permit to operate the Middlesex facility as a “hazardous waste storage, treatment and transfer and solid waste transfer facility.”

34. Permit Number HWP150001 was issued by NJDEP under authority of New Jersey's authorized hazardous waste program, *i.e.* it pertained to those operations and processes at the Middlesex facility governed by the hazardous waste regulations for which the State of New Jersey had been authorized pursuant to Section 3006(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6926(b).
35. In accordance with Section 3006(d) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6926(d), a violation of a requirement set forth within Permit Number HWP150001 constitutes a "violation of any requirement of this subchapter [Subchapter III, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6921-6939g]" within the meaning of Section 3008(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a).

Recent EPA Interactions with Respondent re the Middlesex Facility

36. On or about April 26, 2016, EPA issued an administrative complaint (bearing docket number RCRA-02-2016-7101) to Respondent, said complaint charging Respondent, in its operations at the Middlesex facility, with two counts of having violated regulatory requirements set forth in 40 C.F.R. Part 264.
37. The first count of the April 2016 complaint alleged Respondent had violated a regulatory requirement incorporated into each of Permit Number HWP120005 and Permit Number HWP150001, *i.e.* the first count alleged Respondent had violated 40 C.F.R. § 264.1052(a) in that it had failed to perform monthly air emissions monitoring as required by said regulation on 20 pumps on 30 occasions between April 2012 and April 2015.
38. The requirement set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 264.1052(a) constitutes a requirement of 40 C.F.R. Part 264, Subpart BB.
39. The second count of the April 2016 complaint alleged Respondent had violated another regulatory requirement incorporated into Permit Number HWP 150001, *i.e.* the second count alleged Respondent had violated 40 C.F.R. § 264.173(a) in that it had failed, at the time of a July 2015 EPA inspection, to close drums containing hazardous waste.
40. The compliance order included with the April 2016 complaint provided, *inter alia*, that Respondent "come into compliance and shall thereafter maintain such compliance at its Middlesex, New Jersey facility with all the applicable organic air emission requirements set forth in 40 C.F.R. Section 264 Subparts [sic] BB [40 C.F.R. 264 §§ 1050 – 1065] regulations."
41. EPA and Respondent entered into a Consent Agreement to settle the allegations made in the April 2016 complaint, with the accompanying final order, executed on or about September 7, 2016, "approv[ing], incorpor[ating] and issu[ing] as an Order pursuant to Section 3008 of the [Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928] and 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(3)" the Consent Agreement entered into between EPA and Respondent (hereinafter said Consent Agreement and Final Order referred to as the "September 2016 CAFO").
42. The terms of the September 2016 CAFO, to which "Respondent knowingly and voluntarily agree[d]," included that "Respondent shall comply with all requirements set forth in its current RCRA permit including: conducting monthly emission monitoring on all pumps in

light liquid service pursuant to 40 C.F.R. Part 264, Subpart BB as referenced in Respondent's NJDEP RCRA permit; and keeping all hazardous waste containers closed except when adding or removing waste."

43. On or about May 22, May 23 and May 24, 2018, duly designated representatives of EPA, pursuant to Section 3007 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6927, conducted a Compliance Evaluation Inspection (the "May 2018 inspection") of the Middlesex facility.
44. Following the May 2018 inspection and as a follow-up thereto, on or about August 9, 2018, EPA issued to Respondent a "Notice of Violation/RCRA Section 3007 Information Request" letter (the "August 2018 NOV/IRL").
45. EPA issued the RCRA Section 3007 Information Request Letter pursuant to the authority granted it under Section 3007 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6927.
46. The August 2018 NOV/IRL stated, *inter alia*, that the EPA inspectors had observed during the May 2018 inspection of the Middlesex facility: (a) "numerous (approximately 50 – 60) open ended pipes/valves subject to 40 CFR Part 264 Subpart BB without a specified closure device, i.e., cap, blind, flange, plug, second valve as required pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 264.1056(a)(1)..." and (b) "numerous pieces of equipment subject to the requirements in 40 CFR §264.1052 through §264.1060 that were not identified in the facility's operating record; or shared matching identifying numbers with other regulated pieces of equipment in the operating record."
47. Respondent provided a response to the August NOV/IRL by letter dated August 22, 2018 (the "August 2018 response").
48. The August 2018 response was provided by an official of/authorized spokesperson for Respondent in the course of carrying out his duties and responsibilities as an employee of Respondent and was certified by said official as to the truth, accuracy and completeness of the responses provided in said response.
49. The August 2018 response stated, *inter alia*, that "in response to the two (2) violations identified in the" August 2018 NOV/IRL: "[t]he facility immediately purchased and placed steel caps on all sample connections identified during the EPA inspection"; (b) "[t]he Plant Engineer inspected all equipment requiring monitoring under USEPA Subpart BB regulations to ensure all fittings and connections were properly tagged with unique identification numbers"; and (c) "[a] new comprehensive list o[f] all equipment numbers and locations was developed for future monitoring...."

Count 1 – Failure to Equip Open Ended Hazardous Waste Lines with Closure Device

50. Complainant repeats and re-alleges each allegation set forth in paragraphs "1" through "49," above, with the same force and effect as if fully set forth below.
51. Permit HWP150001, under "Subject Item: HWSG807524 – Tank Storage," requires that Respondent, as the permittee, "manage all hazardous waste placed in a tank system in

accordance with the applicable requirements of Subparts AA, BB, and CC of 40 C.F.R. Part 264.”

52. One requirement of 40 C.F.R. Part 264, Subpart BB, is 40 C.F.R. § 264.1056(a)(1), which provides that, for equipment containing hazardous waste meeting the specifications set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 264.1050(b), “Each open-ended valve or line shall be equipped with a cap, blind, flange, plug, or a second valve.”
53. Respondent, in its operations of the Middlesex facility, regularly placed hazardous waste in each of the two tank systems at said facility.
54. At the time of the May 2018 inspection, and for periods of time before and after, the tank systems at the Middlesex facility in which Respondent had placed hazardous waste had between 50 and 60 open-ended waste lines, *i.e.* Respondent had failed to place a cap, a blind, a flange, a plug or a second valve on said waste lines.
55. The hazardous waste referenced in paragraph 53, above, met the specifications set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 264.1050(b).
56. The requirement set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 264.1056(a)(1), as incorporated into Permit Number HWP150001, constitutes a requirement of Subchapter III of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6921-6939g, within the meaning of Section 3008(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a).
57. Respondent’s failure, as alleged in paragraph 54, constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 264.1056(a)(1), as incorporated into Permit Number HWP150001, and thus a violation of a requirement of said permit.

Count 2 - Failure to Identify Equipment Subject to RCRA Air Emissions Requirements

58. Complainant repeats and re-alleges each allegation set forth in paragraphs “1” through “49,” “51,” and “53” through “55,” above, with the same force and effect as if fully set forth below.
59. One requirement of 40 C.F.R. Part 264, Subpart BB, is 40 C.F.R. § 264.1064(g)(1), which provides that “[t]he following information pertaining to all equipment subject to the requirements in §§ 264.1052 through 264.1060 shall be recorded in a log that is kept in the facility operating record,” and such information includes “[a] list of identification numbers for equipment (except welded fittings) subject to the requirements of this subpart.”
60. At the time of the May 2018 inspection, and for periods of time before and after, the equipment at the Middlesex facility was (and continues to be) subject to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 264.1052 through 264.1060, which are part of the requirements of 40 C.F.R. Part 264, Subpart BB.
61. At the time of the May 2018 inspection, and for periods of time before and after, with regard to the equipment at the Middlesex facility, Respondent had failed to list in a log kept in the facility’s operating record the identification numbers of equipment subject to the requirements of 40 C.F.R. §§ 264.1052 through 264.1060.
62. The requirement set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 264.1064(g)(1), as incorporated into Permit Number

HWP150001, constitutes a requirement of Subchapter III of the Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 6921-6939g, within the meaning of Section 3008(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a).

63. Respondent's failure, as alleged in paragraph 61, above, constitutes a violation of 40 C.F.R. § 264.1064(g)(1), as incorporated into Permit Number HWP150001, and thus a violation of a requirement of said permit.

III. PROPOSED RCRA SECTION 3008(a), 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), PENALTY

The proposed penalty has been determined in accordance with Section 3008(a)(3) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3). For purposes of determining the amount of any penalty assessed, Section 3008(a)(3) requires EPA to "take into account the seriousness of the violation and any good faith efforts to comply with applicable requirements." To develop the proposed penalty in this complaint, Complainant has taken into account the particular facts and circumstances of this case (known to EPA through the time of issuance of the complaint) and used EPA's 2003 RCRA Civil Penalty Policy, a copy of which is available upon request or can be found on the Internet at the following address: <https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/rcpp2003-fnl.pdf>. This 2003 RCRA Civil Penalty Policy provides a rational, consistent and equitable calculation methodology for applying the statutory penalty factors to particular cases.

The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, as amended through 2015 ("Inflation Adjustment Act"), 28 U.S.C. § 2461 note, required EPA to adjust its penalties for inflation on a periodic basis. Consistent with this, the penalty amounts in the 2003 RCRA Civil Penalty Policy have been amended to reflect inflation adjustments. The adjustments were made pursuant to the January 11, 2018 memorandum, "Amendments to the EPA's Civil Penalty Policies to Account for Inflation (effective January 15, 2018) and Transmittal of the 2018 Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule."

Pursuant to the Inflation Adjustment Act, the maximum statutory civil penalty under Section 3008(a)(3) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a)(3), is \$97,229 per day for each violation occurring after November 2, 2015 and for which a penalty is assessed after January 15, 2018. *See* 40 C.F.R. Part 19 and 83 *Fed. Reg.* 1190 (January 10, 2018).

A penalty calculation worksheet and narrative explanation to support the penalty figure for each violation cited in this Complaint are included in Attachment I, below. (Statements made in each of the narrative explanations are not intended or to be construed to waive, prejudice or limit EPA in later seeking a greater penalty based upon evidence and information EPA might subsequently obtain in the course of this proceeding.) Matrices employed in the determination of individual and multi-day penalties are also included in Attachment II.

Count 1: \$52,900

Count 2: \$23,300

Total Proposed Penalty for Counts 1 and 2 (rounded to the nearest hundredth and incorporating the January 2018 inflationary adjustment): \$76,200

III. COMPLIANCE ORDER

Based upon the foregoing, and pursuant to the authority of Section 3008 of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928, Complainant issues Respondent the following Compliance Order:

Respondent shall, to the extent it has not already done so, immediately upon the effective date of this Order correct the violations of Permit HWP150001 alleged in the previous section and come into compliance and shall thereafter maintain such compliance at the Middlesex facility with said permit provisions and with all other applicable organic air emission requirements referenced in said permit and set forth at 40 C.F.R. Section 264 Subparts BB regulations.

This Compliance Order shall take effect with respect to Respondent within 30 days of date of service of the Order, unless by that date Respondent has requested a hearing pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.15. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 6928(b) and 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.37(b) and 22.7(c).

Respondent shall submit a certification of compliance with this Compliance Order within 30 days after the effective date of said Order.

Any responses, documentation, and evidence submitted in response to this Compliance Order should be sent to:

John Wilk, Compliance Officer
Hazardous Waste Compliance Section
RCRA Compliance Branch
Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 2
290 Broadway, 21st Floor
New York, New York 10007-1866

Compliance with the provisions of this Compliance Order does not waive, extinguish or otherwise affect Respondent's obligation to comply with all other applicable RCRA statutory or regulatory (federal and/or state) provisions, nor does such compliance release Respondent from liability for any violations at its facility. In addition, nothing herein waives, prejudices or otherwise affects EPA's authority to enforce any applicable provision of law, and to seek and obtain any appropriate penalty or other sanction under any such law, regarding Respondent's generation, handling and/or management of hazardous waste at the Middlesex facility.

IV. NOTICE OF LIABILITY FOR ADDITIONAL CIVIL PENALTIES

Pursuant to the terms of Section 3008(c) of the Act and the Inflation Adjustment Act, a violator failing to take corrective action within the time specified in a compliance order that has taken effect is liable for a civil penalty of up to \$58,562 for each day of continued noncompliance. *See* 83 *Fed. Reg.* 1190 (January 10, 2018).

V. PROCEDURES GOVERNING THIS ADMINISTRATIVE LITIGATION

Upon receipt of a compliance order issued under Section 3008(a) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(a), Respondent may seek administrative review in accordance with 40 C.F.R. Part 22. Respondent may seek judicial review of the compliance order pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 701 - 706, once it is final and reviewable pursuant to Section 3008(b) of the Act, 42 U.S.C. § 6928(b), and 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

The rules of procedure governing this civil administrative litigation were originally set forth in 64 *Fed. Reg.* 40138 (July 23, 1999), entitled CONSOLIDATED RULES OF PRACTICE GOVERNING THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF CIVIL PENALTIES, ISSUANCE OF COMPLIANCE OR CORRECTIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE ORDERS, AND THE REVOCATION, TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMITS (“Consolidated Rules of Practice”), and which are codified at 40 C.F.R. Part 22. These rules have been amended to simplify the administrative processing of cases by expanding the availability of electronic filing and service procedures and eliminating inconsistencies. 82 *Fed. Reg.* 2230 (January 9, 2017). These amendments became effective on May 22, 2017 and apply to all new case filings after that date. A copy of the current Consolidated Rules of Practice, incorporating these amendments, accompanies this Complaint.

A. Answering the Complaint

Where Respondent intends to contest any material fact upon which the Complaint is based, to contend that the proposed penalty and/or the Compliance Order is inappropriate or to contend that Respondent is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, Respondent must file with the Regional Hearing Clerk of EPA, Region 2, both an original and one copy of a written answer to the Complaint, and such Answer must be filed within 30 days after service of the Complaint. 40 C.F.R. §§ 22.15(a) and 22.7(c). The address of the Regional Hearing Clerk of EPA, Region 2, is:

**Regional Hearing Clerk
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 16th floor
New York, New York 10007-1866**

Respondent shall also then serve one copy of the Answer to the Complaint upon Complainant and any other party to the action. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(a).

Respondent’s Answer to the Complaint must clearly and directly admit, deny, or explain each of the factual allegations that are contained in the Complaint and with regard to which Respondent has any knowledge. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(b). Where Respondent lacks knowledge of a particular factual allegation and so states in its Answer, the allegation is deemed denied. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(b).

The Answer shall also set forth: (1) the circumstances or arguments that are alleged to constitute the grounds of defense, (2) the facts that Respondent disputes (and thus intends to place at issue in the proceeding) and (3) whether Respondent requests a hearing. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(b).

Respondent's failure affirmatively to raise in the Answer facts that constitute or that might constitute the grounds of their defense may preclude Respondent, at a subsequent stage in this proceeding, from raising such facts and/or from having such facts admitted into evidence at a hearing.

B. Opportunity to Request a Hearing

If requested by Respondent, a hearing upon the issues raised by the Complaint and Answer may be held. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c). If, however, Respondent does not request a hearing, the Presiding Officer (as defined in 40 C.F.R. § 22.3) may hold a hearing if the Answer raises issues appropriate for adjudication. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c). With regard to the Compliance Order in the Complaint, unless Respondent requests a hearing pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.15 within thirty (30) days after the Compliance Order is served, the Compliance Order shall automatically become final. 40 C.F.R. § 22.37

Any hearing in this proceeding will be held at a location determined in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 22.21(d). A hearing of this matter will be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. §§ 551-59, and the procedures set forth in Subpart D of 40 C.F.R. Part 22.

C. Failure to Answer

If Respondent fails in its Answer to admit, deny, or explain any material factual allegation contained in the Complaint, such failure constitutes an admission of the allegation. 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(d). If Respondent fails to file a timely [*i.e.* in accordance with the 30-day period set forth in 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(a)] Answer to the Complaint, Respondent may be found in default upon motion. 40 C.F.R. § 22.17(a). Default by Respondent constitutes, for purposes of the pending proceeding only, an admission of all facts alleged in the Complaint and a waiver of Respondent's right to contest such factual allegations. 40 C.F.R. § 22.17(a). Following a default by Respondent for a failure to timely file an Answer to the Complaint, any order issued therefor shall be issued pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.17(c).

Any penalty assessed in the default order shall become due and payable by Respondent without further proceedings 30 days after the default order becomes final pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.27(c). 40 C.F.R. § 22.17(d). If necessary, EPA may then seek to enforce such final order of default against Respondent, and to collect the assessed penalty amount, in federal court. Any default order requiring compliance action shall be effective and enforceable against Respondent without further proceedings on the date the default order becomes final under 40 C.F.R. § 22.27(c). 40 C.F.R. § 22.17(d).

D. Filing of Documents Filed After the Answer

Unless otherwise ordered by the Presiding Officer for this proceeding, all documents filed after Respondent has filed an Answer should be filed with the Headquarters Hearing Clerk acting on behalf of the Regional Hearing Clerk, addressed as follows:

If filing by the United States Postal Service:

Headquarters Hearing Clerk
Office of the Administrative Law Judges
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code 1900R
Washington, D.C. 20460

If filing by UPS, FedEx, DHL or other courier or personal delivery, address to:

Headquarters Hearing Clerk
Office of the Administrative Law Judges
Ronald Reagan Building, Room M1200
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

E. Exhaustion of Administrative Remedies

Where Respondent fails to appeal an adverse initial decision to the Agency's Environmental Appeals Board ("EAB"; see 40 C.F.R. § 1.25(e)) pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.30, and that initial decision thereby becomes a final order pursuant to the terms of 40 C.F.R. § 22.27(c), Respondent waives its right to judicial review. 40 C.F.R. § 22.27(d).

To appeal an initial decision to the EAB, Respondent must do so within thirty (30) days after the initial decision is served. 40 C.F.R. § 22.30(a). Pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.7(c), where service is effected by mail, "five days shall be added to the time allowed by these rules for the filing of a responsive pleading or document." Note that the 45-day period provided for in 40 C.F.R. § 22.27(c), discussing when an initial decision becomes a final order, does not pertain to or extend the time period prescribed in 40 C.F.R. § 22.30(a) for a party to file an appeal to the EAB of an adverse initial decision.

VI. INFORMAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE

Whether or not Respondent requests a formal hearing, EPA encourages settlement of this proceeding consistent with the provisions of the Act and its applicable regulations. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b). At an informal conference with a representative(s) of Complainant, Respondent may comment on the charges made in the Complaint, and Respondent may also provide whatever additional information that it believes is relevant to the disposition of this matter, including: (1) actions Respondent has taken to correct any or all of the violations herein alleged, (2) any information relevant to Complainant's calculation of the proposed penalty, (3) the effect the proposed penalty would have on Respondent's ability to continue in business and/or (4) any other special facts or circumstances Respondent wishes to raise. At a settlement conference, EPA will be represented by counsel and Respondent may, if it so elects, to be represented by counsel.

Complainant has the authority to modify the amount of the proposed penalty, where appropriate, to reflect any settlement agreement reached with Respondent, to reflect any relevant information previously not known to Complainant, or to dismiss any or all of the charges, if Respondent can demonstrate that the relevant allegations are without merit and that no cause of action as herein alleged exists. Respondent is referred to 40 C.F.R. § 22.18.

Any request for an informal conference or any questions that Respondent may have regarding this Complaint should be directed to:

8705 8 9 330

Lee A. Spielmann
Assistant Regional Counsel
Office of Regional Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2
290 Broadway, 16th floor
New York, New York 10007-1866
212-637- 3222
spielmann.lee@epa.gov

The parties may engage in settlement discussions irrespective of whether Respondent has requested a hearing. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(1). Respondent's requesting a formal hearing does not prevent it from also requesting an informal settlement conference; the informal conference procedure may be pursued simultaneously with the formal adjudicatory hearing procedure. A request for an informal settlement conference constitutes neither an admission nor a denial of any of the matters alleged in the Complaint. Complainant does not deem a request for an informal settlement conference as a request for a hearing as specified in 40 C.F.R. § 22.15(c).

A request for an informal settlement conference does not affect Respondent's obligation to file a timely Answer to the Complaint pursuant to 40 C.F.R. § 22.15. No penalty reduction, however, will be made simply because an informal settlement conference is held.

Any settlement that may be reached as a result of an informal settlement conference will be embodied in a written consent agreement. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2). In accepting the consent agreement, Respondent waives its right to contest the allegations in the Complaint and waive its right to seek judicial review of the final order that is to accompany the consent agreement. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(2). To conclude the proceeding, a final order ratifying the parties' agreement to settle will be executed. 40 C.F.R. § 22.18(b)(3).

Respondent's entering into a settlement through the signing of such Consent Agreement and its complying with the terms and conditions set forth in the such Consent Agreement terminate this administrative litigation and the civil proceedings arising out of the allegations made in the complaint. Respondent's entering into a settlement does not extinguish, waive, satisfy or otherwise affect its obligation and responsibility to comply with all applicable statutory and regulatory requirements, and to maintain such compliance.

VII. RESOLUTION OF THIS PROCEEDING WITHOUT HEARING OR CONFERENCE

If, instead of filing an Answer, Respondent wishes not to contest the Compliance Order in the Complaint and wants to pay the total amount of the proposed penalty within thirty (30) days after receipt of the Complaint, Respondent should promptly contact the Assistant Regional Counsel identified on the previous page.

Dated: **DEC 28 2018**
New York, New York

Complainant:



Dore La Posta, Director
Division of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2

To: Mr. Jim Bell
Chief Executive Officer and President
Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C.
700 East Butterfield Road
Suite 201
Lombard, Illinois 60148-5671

John P. Schantz III
Branch Health and Environmental Safety Manager
Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C.
1 Eden Lane
Flanders, New Jersey 07836

cc: Robert Gomez, Chief
Bureau of Hazardous Waste & UST Compliance and Enforcement
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

In the Matter of the Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C.
Docket Number RCRA-02-2019-7106

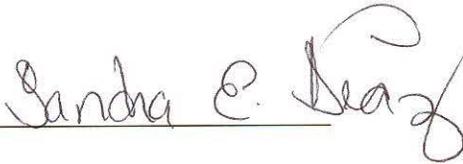
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

This is to certify that on DEC 28 2018, 2018, I served a true and correct copy of the foregoing "COMPLAINT, COMPLIANCE ORDER AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING," bearing Docket Number RCRA-02-2019-7106 (hereinafter referred to as the "Complaint"), together with Attachments I and II and with a copy of the "CONSOLIDATED RULES OF PRACTICE GOVERNING THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENTS OF CIVIL PENALTIES, ISSUANCE OF COMPLIANCE OR CORRECTIVE ACTION COMPLIANCE ORDERS, AND THE REVOCATION, TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMITS," 40 C.F.R. Part 22, by certified mail, return receipt requested, to each of the addressees listed below. On said day, I hand carried the original and a copy of the Complaint, with the accompanying attachments, to the Office of the Regional Hearing Clerk of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 2, at 290 Broadway, 16th floor, New York, New York 10007-1866.

Jim Bell, Chief Executive Officer and President
Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C.
700 East Butterfield Road
Suite 201
Lombard, Illinois 60148-5671

John P. Schantz III, Branch Health and Environmental Safety Manager
Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C.
1 Eden Lane
Flanders, New Jersey 07836

Name: _____



Date: _____

DEC 28 2018

Attachment I

PENALTY COMPUTATION WORKSHEET-COUNT ONE

Company Name: Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C.
Address: 125 Factory Lane, Middlesex, New Jersey 08846

Permit
Violations: 40 C.F.R. § 264.1056(a)(1)
67330
**Failure to Equip Open Ended Hazardous Waste
 Lines with a Closure Device**

- 1. Gravity based penalty from matrix.....\$42,292
- (a) Potential for harm.MAJOR
- (b) Extent of Deviation.MAJOR

- 2. Select an amount from the appropriate multi-day
 matrix cell..... N/A

- 3. Multiply line 2 by number of days of violation minus
 1 [or other number, as appropriate (provide narrative
 explanation)].....N/A

- 4. Add line 1 and 3..... \$42,292

- 5. Percent increase/decrease for good faith.....N/A

- 6. Percent increase for willfulness/negligence.....N/A

- 7. Twenty-five percent increase for history of noncompliance..... 0.25

- 8. Total lines 5 through 7..... 0.25

- 9. Multiply line 4 by line 8..... \$10,573

- 10. Calculated economic benefit.....N/A
67330

- 11. Add lines 4, 9 and 10 for penalty amount to be
 inserted into the complaint..... \$52,900*

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION TO SUPPORT PENALTY COMPUTATION

1. Gravity-Based Penalty

(a) **Potential for Harm:** The “Potential for Harm” was “MAJOR” because Respondent, by failing to equip 50 – 60 open ended hazardous waste lines, significantly increased the risk and likelihood of emissions of hazardous waste.

(b) **Extent of Deviation:** The “Extent of Deviation” was determined to be “MAJOR” because the Respondent failed to equip 50 – 60 open ended hazardous waste lines with any of the specified closure devices, a substantial level of non-compliance with a regulatory requirement; a lesser classification was not warranted because Respondent had not employed any closure devices on these lines.

Based on the fact this violation involved 50 – 60 open lines, the high point of the cell range in the penalty matrix was selected.

(c) **Multi-Day/Multiple Violations:** Based on available information, a penalty for multi-day or multiple violations is not being sought.

2. Adjustment Factors (Good faith, willfulness/negligence, history of compliance, ability to pay, environmental credits, and other unique factors must be justified, if applied):

Good faith: EPA at this time has made no adjustment for this factor in the penalty determination since EPA has no definite information concerning any mitigating factors; if EPA receives such information, it will then evaluate it and consider making an appropriate adjustment.

Willfulness/Negligence: Not applicable

History of Compliance: The proposed penalty is increased by 25% in light of Respondent’s notice in a 2016 Region 2 proceeding of an alleged violation of a related 40 C.F.R. Part 264, Subpart BB, regulatory requirement, and other EPA regions have alleged Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. Part 264, Subpart BB, requirements at other Veolia facilities.

Ability to Pay: Not applicable

Environmental Project: Not applicable

Other Unique Factors: Not applicable

3. Economic Benefit: The economic benefit derived from all violations was determined to be less than \$5,000. An economic benefit under this amount is deemed insignificant and is not included in the penalty assessment figure.

4. Recalculation of Penalty Based on New Information: N/A

PENALTY COMPUTATION WORKSHEET-COUNT TWO

Company Name: Veolia ES Technical Solutions, L.L.C.
Address: 125 Factory Lane, Middlesex, New Jersey 08846

Permit
Violations: 40 CFR §264.1064(g)(1)

Failure to Identify Equipment Subject to RCRA Air Emissions Requirements

1. Gravity based penalty from matrix.....	\$18,608
(a) Potential for harm.....	MODERATE
(b) Extent of Deviation.....	MAJOR
2. Select an amount from the appropriate multi-day matrix cell.....	N/A
3. Multiply line 2 by number of days of violation minus 1 [or other number, as appropriate (provide narrative explanation)].....	N/A
4. Add line 1 and 3.....	\$18,608
5. Percent increase/decrease for good faith.....	N/A
6. Percent increase for willfulness/negligence.....	N/A
7. Twenty-five percent increase for history of noncompliance.....	0.25
8. Total lines 5 through 7.....	0.25
9. Multiply line 4 by line 8.....	\$4,652
10. Calculated economic benefit.....	N/A
11. Add lines 4, 9 and 10 for penalty amount to be inserted into the complaint.....	\$23,300*

* **Penalties rounded to nearest hundredth.**

NARRATIVE EXPLANATION TO SUPPORT PENALTY COMPUTATION

1. Gravity Based Penalty

(a) **Potential for Harm:** The “Potential for Harm” was “MODERATE” because Respondent, by failing to identify equipment subject to 40 C.F.R. Part 264, Subpart BB increased the risk and likelihood that its leak detection and repair program could misidentify regulated equipment and delay any requisite leak repairs; this was offset because Respondent informed EPA that it was monitoring the equipment.

(b) **Extent of Deviation:** The “Extent of Deviation” was determined to be “MAJOR” because Respondent failed to identify a significant number of pumps and valves, a situation representing a substantial level of non-compliance with a regulatory requirement.

Because of the many pieces of equipment that were in violation of the regulatory requirement, the high point of the cell range in the penalty matrix was selected.

(c) **Multi-Day/Multiple Violations:** Because this alleged violation was deemed to be a one-time violation, a penalty for multi-day/multiple violations is not being sought.

2. **Adjustment Factors** (Good faith, willfulness/negligence, history of compliance, ability to pay, environmental credits, and other unique factors must be justified, if applied):

Good faith: EPA at this time has made no adjustment for this factor in the penalty determination since EPA has no definite information concerning any mitigating factors; if EPA receives such information, it will then evaluate it and consider making an appropriate adjustment.

Willfulness/Negligence: Not applicable

History of Compliance: The proposed penalty is increased by 25% in light of Respondent’s notice in a 2016 Region 2 proceeding of an alleged violation of a related 40 C.F.R. Part 264, Subpart BB, regulatory requirement, and other EPA regions have alleged Respondent violated 40 C.F.R. Part 264, Subpart BB, requirements at other Veolia facilities.

Ability to Pay: Not applicable

Environmental Project: Not applicable

Other Unique Factors: Not applicable

3. **Economic Benefit:** The economic benefit derived from all violations was determined to be less than \$5,000. An economic benefit under this amount is deemed insignificant and is not included in the penalty assessment figure.

4. **Recalculation of Penalty Based on New Information:** N/A

ATTACHMENT II**RCRA Civil Penalty Policy – Updated Pursuant to 1/11/18 S. Bodine Memo Amendments to the EPA’s Civil Penalty Policies to Account for Inflation (Effective January 15, 2018) and Transmittal of the 2018 Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule****INITIAL GRAVITY MATRIX**

Extent of Deviation from Requirement

Potential
for
Harm

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR
MAJOR	\$42,292 to \$33,834	\$33,933 to \$25,375	\$25,374 to \$18,609
MODERATE	\$18,608 to \$13,534	\$13,533 to \$8,458	\$8,457 to \$5,075
MINOR	\$5,074 to \$2,538	\$2,537 to \$846	\$845 to \$169

RCRA Civil Penalty Policy – Updated Pursuant to 1/11/18 S. Bodine Memo Amendments to the EPA’s Civil Penalty Policies to Account for Inflation (Effective January 15, 2018) and Transmittal of the 2018 Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule

MULTI-DAY MATRIX OF MINIMUM DAILY PENALTIES (in dollars)

Extent of Deviation from Requirement

Potential
for
Harm

	MAJOR	MODERATE	MINOR
MAJOR	\$8,458 to \$1,692	\$6,767 to \$1,269	\$5,075 to \$930
MODERATE	\$3,722 to \$677	\$2,707 to \$423	\$1,692 to \$254
MINOR	\$1,015 to \$169	\$508 to \$169	\$169

ELECTRONIC CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS**e-CFR data is current as of December 20, 2018**

Title 40 → Chapter I → Subchapter A → Part 22

Title 40: Protection of Environment

PART 22—CONSOLIDATED RULES OF PRACTICE GOVERNING THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSESSMENT OF CIVIL PENALTIES AND THE REVOCATION/TERMINATION OR SUSPENSION OF PERMITS

Contents**Subpart A—General**

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- §22.2 Use of number and gender.
- §22.3 Definitions.
- §22.4 Powers and duties of the Environmental Appeals Board, Regional Judicial Officer and Presiding Officer; disqualification, withdrawal, and reassignment.
- §22.5 Filing, service by the parties, and form of all filed documents; business confidentiality claims.
- §22.6 Filing and service of rulings, orders and decisions.
- §22.7 Computation and extension of time.
- §22.8 *Ex parte* discussion of proceeding.
- §22.9 Examination of documents filed.

Subpart B—Parties and Appearances

- §22.10 Appearances.
- §22.11 Intervention and non-party briefs.
- §22.12 Consolidation and severance.

Subpart C—Prehearing Procedures

- §22.13 Commencement of a proceeding.
- §22.14 Complaint.
- §22.15 Answer to the complaint.
- §22.16 Motions.
- §22.17 Default.
- §22.18 Quick resolution; settlement; alternative dispute resolution.
- §22.19 Prehearing information exchange; prehearing conference; other discovery.
- §22.20 Accelerated decision; decision to dismiss.

Subpart D—Hearing Procedures

- §22.21 Assignment of Presiding Officer; scheduling the hearing.
- §22.22 Evidence.
- §22.23 Objections and offers of proof.
- §22.24 Burden of presentation; burden of persuasion; preponderance of the evidence standard.
- §22.25 Filing the transcript.
- §22.26 Proposed findings, conclusions, and order.

Subpart E—Initial Decision, Motion To Reopen a Hearing, and Motion To Set Aside a Default Order

- §22.27 Initial Decision.
- §22.28 Motion to reopen a hearing or to set aside a default order.

Subpart F—Appeals and Administrative Review

- §22.29 Appeal from or review of interlocutory orders or rulings.
- §22.30 Appeal from or review of initial decision.

Subpart G—Final Order

- §22.31 Final order.
- §22.32 Motion to reconsider a final order.

Subpart H—Supplemental Rules

- §22.33 [Reserved]
- §22.34 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under the Clean Air Act.
- §22.35 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.
- §22.36 [Reserved]
- §22.37 Supplemental rules governing administrative proceedings under the Solid Waste Disposal Act.
- §22.38 Supplemental rules of practice governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under the Clean Water Act.
- §22.39 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended.
- §22.40 [Reserved]
- §22.41 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under Title II of the Toxic Substance Control Act, enacted as section 2 of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA).
- §22.42 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties for violations of compliance orders issued to owners or operators of public water systems under part B of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- §22.43 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties against a federal agency under the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- §22.44 Supplemental rules of practice governing the termination of permits under section 402(a) of the Clean Water Act or under section 3008(a)(3) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.
- §22.45 Supplemental rules governing public notice and comment in proceedings under sections 309(g) and 311(b)(6)(B)(ii) of the Clean Water Act and section 1423(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- §§22.46-22.49 [Reserved]

Subpart I—Administrative Proceedings Not Governed by Section 554 of the Administrative Procedure Act

- §22.50 Scope of this subpart.
- §22.51 Presiding Officer.
- §22.52 Information exchange and discovery.

AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 1361; 15 U.S.C. 2615; 33 U.S.C. 1319, 1342, 1361, 1415 and 1418; 42 U.S.C. 300g-3(g), 6912, 6925, 6928, 6991e and 6992d; 42 U.S.C. 7413(d), 7524(c), 7545(d), 7547, 7601 and 7607(a), 9609, and 11045.

SOURCE: 64 FR 40176, July 23, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

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Subpart A—General

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§22.1 Scope of this part.

(a) These Consolidated Rules of Practice govern all administrative adjudicatory proceedings for:

(1) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under section 14(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act as amended (7 U.S.C. 136(a));

(2) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under sections 113(d), 205(c), 211(d) and 213(d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7413(d), 7524(c), 7545(d) and 7547(d)), and a determination of nonconforming engines, vehicles or equipment under sections 207(c) and 213(d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7541(c) and 7547(d));

(3) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty or for the revocation or suspension of any permit under section 105 (a) and (f) of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act as amended (33 U.S.C. 1415(a) and (f));

(4) The issuance of a compliance order or the issuance of a corrective action order, the termination of a permit pursuant to section 3008(a)(3), the suspension or revocation of authority to operate pursuant to section 3005(e), or the assessment of any civil penalty under sections 3008, 9006, and 11005 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6925(d), 6925(e), 6928, 6991e, and 6992d)), except as provided in part 24 of this chapter;

(5) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under sections 16(a) and 207 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2615(a) and 2647);

(6) The assessment of any Class II penalty under sections 309(g) and 311(b)(6), or termination of any permit issued pursuant to section 402(a) of the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1319(g), 1321(b)(6), and 1342(a));

(7) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9609);

(8) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under section 325 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 ("EPCRA") (42 U.S.C. 11045);

(9) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under sections 1414(g)(3)(B), 1423(c), and 1447(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 300g-3(g)(3)(B), 300h-2(c), and 300j-6(b)), or the issuance of any order requiring both compliance and the assessment of an administrative civil penalty under section 1423(c);

(10) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty or the issuance of any order requiring compliance under Section 5 of the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act (42 U.S.C. 14304).

(11) The assessment of any administrative civil penalty under section 1908(b) of the Act To Prevent Pollution From Ships ("APPS"), as amended (33 U.S.C. 1908(b)).

(b) The supplemental rules set forth in subparts H and I of this part establish special procedures for proceedings identified in paragraph (a) of this section where the Act allows or requires procedures different from the procedures in subparts A through G of this part. Where inconsistencies exist between subparts A through G of this part and subpart H or I of this part, subparts H or I of this part shall apply.

(c) Questions arising at any stage of the proceeding which are not addressed in these Consolidated Rules of Practice shall be resolved at the discretion of the Administrator, Environmental Appeals Board, Regional Administrator, or Presiding Officer, as provided for in these Consolidated Rules of Practice.

[64 FR 40176, July 23, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 30904, May 15, 2000; 79 FR 65900, Nov. 6, 2014; 81 FR 73970, Oct. 25, 2016]

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§22.2 Use of number and gender.

As used in these Consolidated Rules of Practice, words in the singular also include the plural and words in the masculine gender also include the feminine, and vice versa, as the case may require.

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§22.3 Definitions.

(a) The following definitions apply to these Consolidated Rules of Practice:

Act means the particular statute authorizing the proceeding at issue.

Administrative Law Judge means an Administrative Law Judge appointed under 5 U.S.C. 3105.

Administrator means the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency or his delegate.

Agency means the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Business confidentiality claim means a confidentiality claim as defined in 40 CFR 2.201(h).

Clerk of the Board means an individual duly authorized to serve as Clerk of the Environmental Appeals Board.

Commenter means any person (other than a party) or representative of such person who timely:

(1) Submits in writing to the Regional Hearing Clerk that he is providing or intends to provide comments on the proposed assessment of a penalty pursuant to sections 309(g)(4) and 311(b)(6)(C) of the Clean Water Act or section 1423(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, whichever applies, and intends to participate in the proceeding; and

(2) Provides the Regional Hearing Clerk with a return address.

Complainant means any person authorized to issue a complaint in accordance with §§22.13 and 22.14 on behalf of the Agency to persons alleged to be in violation of the Act. The complainant shall not be a member of the Environmental Appeals Board, the Regional Judicial Officer or any other person who will participate or advise in the adjudication.

Consolidated Rules of Practice means the regulations in this part.

Environmental Appeals Board means the Board within the Agency described in 40 CFR 1.25.

Final order means:

(1) An order issued by the Environmental Appeals Board or the Administrator after an appeal of an initial decision, accelerated decision, decision to dismiss, or default order, disposing of the matter in controversy between the parties;

(2) An initial decision which becomes a final order under §22.27(c); or

(3) A final order issued in accordance with §22.18.

Hearing means an evidentiary hearing on the record, open to the public (to the extent consistent with §22.22(a)(2)), conducted as part of a proceeding under these Consolidated Rules of Practice.

Hearing Clerk means the Hearing Clerk, Mail Code 1900, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460.

Initial decision means the decision issued by the Presiding Officer pursuant to §§22.17(c), 22.20(b) or 22.27 resolving all outstanding issues in the proceeding.

Party means any person that participates in a proceeding as complainant, respondent, or intervenor.

Permit action means the revocation, suspension or termination of all or part of a permit issued under section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (33 U.S.C. 1412) or termination under section 402(a) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(a)) or section 3005(d) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6925(d)).

Person includes any individual, partnership, association, corporation, and any trustee, assignee, receiver or legal successor thereof; any organized group of persons whether incorporated or not; and any officer, employee, agent, department, agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government, of any State or local unit of government, or of any foreign government.

Presiding Officer means an individual who presides in an administrative adjudication until an initial decision becomes final or is appealed. The Presiding Officer shall be an Administrative Law Judge, except where §§22.4(b), 22.16(c) or 22.51 allow a Regional Judicial Officer to serve as Presiding Officer.

Proceeding means the entirety of a single administrative adjudication, from the filing of the complaint through the issuance of a final order, including any action on a motion to reconsider under §22.32.

Regional Administrator means, for a case initiated in an EPA Regional Office, the Regional Administrator for that Region or any officer or employee thereof to whom his authority is duly delegated.

Regional Hearing Clerk means an individual duly authorized to serve as hearing clerk for a given region, who shall be neutral in every proceeding. Correspondence with the Regional Hearing Clerk shall be addressed to the Regional Hearing Clerk at the address specified in the complaint. For a case initiated at EPA Headquarters, the term Regional Hearing Clerk means the Hearing Clerk.

Regional Judicial Officer means a person designated by the Regional Administrator under §22.4(b).

Respondent means any person against whom the complaint states a claim for relief.

(b) Terms defined in the Act and not defined in these Consolidated Rules of Practice are used consistent with the meanings given in the Act.

[64 FR 40176, July 23, 1999, as amended at 65 FR 30904, May 15, 2000; 79 FR 65901, Nov. 6, 2014]

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§22.4 Powers and duties of the Environmental Appeals Board, Regional Judicial Officer and Presiding Officer; disqualification, withdrawal, and reassignment.

(a) *Environmental Appeals Board.* (1) The Environmental Appeals Board rules on appeals from the initial decisions, rulings and orders of a Presiding Officer in proceedings under these Consolidated Rules of Practice, and approves settlement of proceedings under these Consolidated Rules of Practice commenced at EPA Headquarters. The Environmental Appeals Board may refer any case or motion to the Administrator when the Environmental Appeals Board, in its discretion, deems it appropriate to do so. When an appeal or motion is referred to the Administrator by the Environmental Appeals Board, all parties shall be so notified and references to the Environmental Appeals Board in these Consolidated Rules of Practice shall be interpreted as referring to the Administrator. If a case or motion is referred to the Administrator by the Environmental Appeals Board, the Administrator may consult with any EPA employee concerning the matter, provided such consultation does not violate §22.8. Motions directed to the Administrator shall not be considered except for motions for disqualification pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section, or motions filed in matters that the Environmental Appeals Board has referred to the Administrator.

(2) In exercising its duties and responsibilities under these Consolidated Rules of Practice, the Environmental Appeals Board may do all acts and take all measures as are necessary for the efficient, fair and impartial adjudication of issues arising in a proceeding, including imposing procedural sanctions against a party who without adequate justification fails or refuses to comply with these Consolidated Rules of Practice or with an order of the Environmental Appeals Board. Such sanctions may include drawing adverse inferences against a party, striking a party's pleadings or other submissions from the record, and denying any or all relief sought by the party in the proceeding.

(b) *Regional Judicial Officer.* Each Regional Administrator shall delegate to one or more Regional Judicial Officers authority to act as Presiding Officer in proceedings under subpart I of this part, and to act as Presiding Officer until the respondent files an answer in proceedings under these Consolidated Rules of Practice to which subpart I of this part does not apply. The Regional Administrator may also delegate to one or more Regional Judicial Officers the authority to approve settlement of

proceedings pursuant to §22.18(b)(3). These delegations will not prevent a Regional Judicial Officer from referring any motion or case to the Regional Administrator. A Regional Judicial Officer shall be an attorney who is a permanent or temporary employee of the Agency or another Federal agency and who may perform other duties within the Agency. A Regional Judicial Officer shall not have performed prosecutorial or investigative functions in connection with any case in which he serves as a Regional Judicial Officer. A Regional Judicial Officer shall not knowingly preside over a case involving any party concerning whom the Regional Judicial Officer performed any functions of prosecution or investigation within the 2 years preceding the commencement of the case. A Regional Judicial Officer shall not prosecute enforcement cases and shall not be supervised by any person who supervises the prosecution of enforcement cases, but may be supervised by the Regional Counsel.

(c) *Presiding Officer.* The Presiding Officer shall conduct a fair and impartial proceeding, assure that the facts are fully elicited, adjudicate all issues, and avoid delay. The Presiding Officer may:

- (1) Conduct administrative hearings under these Consolidated Rules of Practice;
- (2) Rule upon motions, requests, and offers of proof, and issue all necessary orders;
- (3) Administer oaths and affirmations and take affidavits;
- (4) Examine witnesses and receive documentary or other evidence;
- (5) Order a party, or an officer or agent thereof, to produce testimony, documents, or other non-privileged evidence, and failing the production thereof without good cause being shown, draw adverse inferences against that party;
- (6) Admit or exclude evidence;
- (7) Hear and decide questions of facts, law, or discretion;
- (8) Require parties to attend conferences for the settlement or simplification of the issues, or the expedition of the proceedings;
- (9) Issue subpoenas authorized by the Act; and
- (10) Do all other acts and take all measures necessary for the maintenance of order and for the efficient, fair and impartial adjudication of issues arising in proceedings governed by these Consolidated Rules of Practice.

(d) *Disqualification, withdrawal and reassignment.* (1) The Administrator, the Regional Administrator, the members of the Environmental Appeals Board, the Regional Judicial Officer, or the Administrative Law Judge may not perform functions provided for in these Consolidated Rules of Practice regarding any matter in which they have a financial interest or have any relationship with a party or with the subject matter which would make it inappropriate for them to act. Any party may at any time by motion to the Administrator, Regional Administrator, a member of the Environmental Appeals Board, the Regional Judicial Officer or the Administrative Law Judge request that he or she disqualify himself or herself from the proceeding. If such a motion to disqualify the Regional Administrator, Regional Judicial Officer or Administrative Law Judge is denied, a party may appeal that ruling to the Environmental Appeals Board. If a motion to disqualify a member of the Environmental Appeals Board is denied, a party may appeal that ruling to the Administrator. There shall be no interlocutory appeal of the ruling on a motion for disqualification. The Administrator, the Regional Administrator, a member of the Environmental Appeals Board, the Regional Judicial Officer, or the Administrative Law Judge may at any time withdraw from any proceeding in which he deems himself disqualified or unable to act for any reason.

(2) If the Administrator, the Regional Administrator, the Regional Judicial Officer, or the Administrative Law Judge is disqualified or withdraws from the proceeding, a qualified individual who has none of the infirmities listed in paragraph (d)(1) of this section shall be assigned as a replacement. The Administrator shall assign a replacement for a Regional Administrator who withdraws or is disqualified. Should the Administrator withdraw or be disqualified, the Regional Administrator from the Region where the case originated shall replace the Administrator. If that Regional Administrator would be disqualified, the Administrator shall assign a Regional Administrator from another Region to replace the Administrator. The Regional Administrator shall assign a new Regional Judicial Officer if the original Regional Judicial Officer withdraws or is disqualified. The Chief Administrative Law Judge shall assign a new Administrative Law Judge if the original Administrative Law Judge withdraws or is disqualified.

(3) The Chief Administrative Law Judge, at any stage in the proceeding, may reassign the case to an Administrative Law Judge other than the one originally assigned in the event of the unavailability of the Administrative Law Judge or where reassignment will result in efficiency in the scheduling of hearings and would not prejudice the parties.

[64 FR 40176, July 23, 1999, as amended at 82 FR 2234, Jan. 9, 2017]

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§22.5 Filing, service by the parties, and form of all filed documents; business confidentiality claims.

(a) *Filing of documents.* (1) The original and one copy of each document intended to be part of the record shall be filed with the Headquarters or Regional Hearing Clerk, as appropriate, when the proceeding is before the Presiding Officer, or filed with

the Clerk of the Board when the proceeding is before the Environmental Appeals Board. A document is filed when it is received by the appropriate Clerk. When a document is required to be filed with the Environmental Appeals Board, the document shall be sent to the Clerk of the Board by U.S. Mail, delivered by hand or courier (including delivery by U.S. Express Mail or by a commercial delivery service), or transmitted by the Environmental Appeal Board's electronic filing system, according to the procedures specified in 40 CFR 124.19 (i)(2)(i), (ii), and (iii). The Presiding Officer or the Environmental Appeals Board may by order authorize or require filing by facsimile or an electronic filing system, subject to any appropriate conditions and limitations.

(2) When the Presiding Officer corresponds directly with the parties, the original of the correspondence shall be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk. Parties who correspond directly with the Presiding Officer shall file a copy of the correspondence with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

(3) A certificate of service shall accompany each document filed or served in the proceeding.

(b) *Service of documents.* Unless the proceeding is before the Environmental Appeals Board, a copy of each document filed in the proceeding shall be served on the Presiding Officer and on each party. In a proceeding before the Environmental Appeals Board, a copy of each document filed in the proceeding shall be served on each party.

(1) *Service of complaint.* (i) Complainant shall serve on respondent, or a representative authorized to receive service on respondent's behalf, a copy of the signed original of the complaint, together with a copy of these Consolidated Rules of Practice. Service shall be made personally, by certified mail with return receipt requested, or by any reliable commercial delivery service that provides written verification of delivery.

(ii)(A) Where respondent is a domestic or foreign corporation, a partnership, or an unincorporated association which is subject to suit under a common name, complainant shall serve an officer, partner, a managing or general agent, or any other person authorized by appointment or by Federal or State law to receive service of process.

(B) Where respondent is an agency of the United States complainant shall serve that agency as provided by that agency's regulations, or in the absence of controlling regulation, as otherwise permitted by law. Complainant should also provide a copy of the complaint to the senior executive official having responsibility for the overall operations of the geographical unit where the alleged violations arose. If the agency is a corporation, the complaint shall be served as prescribed in paragraph (b)(1)(ii)(A) of this section.

(C) Where respondent is a State or local unit of government, agency, department, corporation or other instrumentality, complainant shall serve the chief executive officer thereof, or as otherwise permitted by law. Where respondent is a State or local officer, complainant shall serve such officer.

(iii) Proof of service of the complaint shall be made by affidavit of the person making personal service, or by properly executed receipt. Such proof of service shall be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk immediately upon completion of service.

(2) *Service of filed documents other than the complaint, rulings, orders, and decisions.* All documents filed by a party other than the complaint, rulings, orders, and decisions shall be served by the filing party on all other parties. Service may be made personally, by U.S. mail (including certified mail, return receipt requested, Overnight Express and Priority Mail), by any reliable commercial delivery service, or by facsimile or other electronic means, including but not necessarily limited to email, if service by such electronic means is consented to in writing. A party who consents to service by facsimile or email must file an acknowledgement of its consent (identifying the type of electronic means agreed to and the electronic address to be used) with the appropriate Clerk. In addition, the Presiding Officer or the Environmental Appeals Board may by order authorize or require service by facsimile, email, or other electronic means, subject to any appropriate conditions and limitations.

(c) *Form of documents.* (1) Except as provided in this section, or by order of the Presiding Officer or of the Environmental Appeals Board there are no specific requirements as to the form of documents.

(2) The first page of every filed document shall contain a caption identifying the respondent and the docket number. All legal briefs and legal memoranda greater than 20 pages in length (excluding attachments) shall contain a table of contents and a table of authorities with page references.

(3) The original of any filed document (other than exhibits) shall be signed by the party filing or by its attorney or other representative. The signature constitutes a representation by the signer that he has read the document, that to the best of his knowledge, information and belief, the statements made therein are true, and that it is not interposed for delay.

(4) The first document filed by any person shall contain the name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address of an individual authorized to receive service relating to the proceeding on behalf of the person. Parties shall promptly file any changes in this information with the Headquarters or Regional Hearing Clerk or the Clerk of the Board, as appropriate, and serve copies on the Presiding Officer and all parties to the proceeding. If a party fails to furnish such information and any changes thereto, service to the party's last known address shall satisfy the requirements of paragraph (b)(2) of this section and §22.6.

(5) The Environmental Appeals Board or the Presiding Officer may exclude from the record any document which does not comply with this section. Written notice of such exclusion, stating the reasons therefor, shall be promptly given to the person submitting the document. Such person may amend and resubmit any excluded document upon motion granted by the Environmental Appeals Board or the Presiding Officer, as appropriate.

(d) *Confidentiality of business information.* (1) A person who wishes to assert a business confidentiality claim with regard to any information contained in any document to be filed in a proceeding under these Consolidated Rules of Practice shall assert such a claim in accordance with 40 CFR part 2 at the time that the document is filed. A document filed without a claim of business confidentiality shall be available to the public for inspection and copying.

(2) Two versions of any document which contains information claimed confidential shall be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk:

(i) One version of the document shall contain the information claimed confidential. The cover page shall include the information required under paragraph (c)(2) of this section and the words "Business Confidentiality Asserted". The specific portion(s) alleged to be confidential shall be clearly identified within the document.

(ii) A second version of the document shall contain all information except the specific information claimed confidential, which shall be redacted and replaced with notes indicating the nature of the information redacted. The cover page shall state that information claimed confidential has been deleted and that a complete copy of the document containing the information claimed confidential has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

(3) Both versions of the document shall be served on the Presiding Officer and the complainant. Both versions of the document shall be served on any party, non-party participant, or representative thereof, authorized to receive the information claimed confidential by the person making the claim of confidentiality. Only the redacted version shall be served on persons not authorized to receive the confidential information.

(4) Only the second, redacted version shall be treated as public information. An EPA officer or employee may disclose information claimed confidential in accordance with paragraph (d)(1) of this section only as authorized under 40 CFR part 2.

[64 FR 40176, July 23, 1999, as amended at 69 FR 77639, Dec. 28, 2004; 79 FR 65901, Nov. 6, 2014; 82 FR 2234, Jan. 9, 2017]

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§22.6 Filing and service of rulings, orders and decisions.

All rulings, orders, decisions, and other documents issued by the Regional Administrator or Presiding Officer shall be filed with the Headquarters or Regional Hearing Clerk, as appropriate, in any manner allowed for the service of such documents. All rulings, orders, decisions, and other documents issued by the Environmental Appeals Board shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board. The Clerk of the Board, the Headquarters Hearing Clerk, or the Regional Hearing Clerk, as appropriate, must serve copies of such rulings, orders, decisions and other documents on all parties. Service may be made by U.S. mail (including by certified mail or return receipt requested, Overnight Express and Priority Mail), EPA's internal mail, any reliable commercial delivery service, or electronic means (including but not necessarily limited to facsimile and email).

[82 FR 2234, Jan. 9, 2017]

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§22.7 Computation and extension of time.

(a) *Computation.* In computing any period of time prescribed or allowed in these Consolidated Rules of Practice, except as otherwise provided, the day of the event from which the designated period begins to run shall not be included. Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays shall be included. When a stated time expires on a Saturday, Sunday or Federal holiday, the stated time period shall be extended to include the next business day.

(b) *Extensions of time.* The Environmental Appeals Board or the Presiding Officer may grant an extension of time for filing any document: upon timely motion of a party to the proceeding, for good cause shown, and after consideration of prejudice to other parties; or upon its own initiative. Any motion for an extension of time shall be filed sufficiently in advance of the due date so as to allow other parties reasonable opportunity to respond and to allow the Presiding Officer or Environmental Appeals Board reasonable opportunity to issue an order.

(c) *Completion of service.* Service of the complaint is complete when the return receipt is signed. Service of all other documents is complete upon mailing, when placed in the custody of a reliable commercial delivery service, or for facsimile or other electronic means, including but not necessarily limited to email, upon transmission. Where a document is served by U.S. mail, EPA internal mail, or commercial delivery service, including overnight or same-day delivery, 3 days shall be added to the time allowed by these Consolidated Rules of Practice for the filing of a responsive document. The time allowed for the serving of a responsive document is not expanded by 3 days when the served document is served by personal delivery, facsimile, or other electronic means, including but not necessarily limited to email.

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§22.8 Ex parte discussion of proceeding.

arguments which are alleged to constitute the grounds of any defense; the facts which respondent disputes; the basis for opposing any proposed relief; and whether a hearing is requested.

(c) *Request for a hearing.* A hearing upon the issues raised by the complaint and answer may be held if requested by respondent in its answer. If the respondent does not request a hearing, the Presiding Officer may hold a hearing if issues appropriate for adjudication are raised in the answer.

(d) *Failure to admit, deny, or explain.* Failure of respondent to admit, deny, or explain any material factual allegation contained in the complaint constitutes an admission of the allegation.

(e) *Amendment of the answer.* The respondent may amend the answer to the complaint upon motion granted by the Presiding Officer.

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§22.16 Motions.

(a) *General.* Motions shall be served as provided by §22.5(b)(2). Upon the filing of a motion, other parties may file responses to the motion and the movant may file a reply to the response. Any additional responsive documents shall be permitted only by order of the Presiding Officer or Environmental Appeals Board, as appropriate. All motions, except those made orally on the record during a hearing, shall:

- (1) Be in writing;
- (2) State the grounds therefor, with particularity;
- (3) Set forth the relief sought; and
- (4) Be accompanied by any affidavit, certificate, other evidence or legal memorandum relied upon.

(b) *Response to motions.* A party's response to any written motion must be filed within 15 days after service of such motion. The movant's reply to any written response must be filed within 10 days after service of such response and shall be limited to issues raised in the response. The Presiding Officer or the Environmental Appeals Board may set a shorter or longer time for response or reply, or make other orders concerning the disposition of motions. The response or reply shall be accompanied by any affidavit, certificate, other evidence, or legal memorandum relied upon. Any party who fails to respond within the designated period waives any objection to the granting of the motion.

(c) *Decision.* The Regional Judicial Officer (or in a proceeding commenced at EPA Headquarters, an Administrative Law Judge) shall rule on all motions filed or made before an answer to the complaint is filed. Except as provided in §§22.29(c) and 22.51, an Administrative Law Judge shall rule on all motions filed or made after an answer is filed and before an initial decision becomes final or has been appealed. The Environmental Appeals Board shall rule as provided in §22.29(c) and on all motions filed or made after an appeal of the initial decision is filed, except as provided pursuant to §22.28.

(d) *Oral argument.* The Presiding Officer or the Environmental Appeals Board may permit oral argument on motions in its discretion.

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§22.17 Default.

(a) *Default.* A party may be found to be in default: after motion, upon failure to file a timely answer to the complaint; upon failure to comply with the information exchange requirements of §22.19(a) or an order of the Presiding Officer; or upon failure to appear at a conference or hearing. Default by respondent constitutes, for purposes of the pending proceeding only, an admission of all facts alleged in the complaint and a waiver of respondent's right to contest such factual allegations. Default by complainant constitutes a waiver of complainant's right to proceed on the merits of the action, and shall result in the dismissal of the complaint with prejudice.

(b) *Motion for default.* A motion for default may seek resolution of all or part of the proceeding. Where the motion requests the assessment of a penalty or the imposition of other relief against a defaulting party, the movant must specify the penalty or other relief sought and state the legal and factual grounds for the relief requested.

(c) *Default order.* When the Presiding Officer finds that default has occurred, he shall issue a default order against the defaulting party as to any or all parts of the proceeding unless the record shows good cause why a default order should not be issued. If the order resolves all outstanding issues and claims in the proceeding, it shall constitute the initial decision under these Consolidated Rules of Practice. The relief proposed in the complaint or the motion for default shall be ordered unless the requested relief is clearly inconsistent with the record of the proceeding or the Act. For good cause shown, the Presiding Officer may set aside a default order.

(d) *Payment of penalty; effective date of compliance or corrective action orders, and Permit Actions.* Any penalty assessed in the default order shall become due and payable by respondent without further proceedings 30 days after the default order becomes final under §22.27(c). Any default order requiring compliance or corrective action shall be effective and enforceable without further proceedings on the date the default order becomes final under §22.27(c). Any Permit Action ordered in the default order shall become effective without further proceedings on the date that the default order becomes final under §22.27(c).

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§22.18 Quick resolution; settlement; alternative dispute resolution.

(a) *Quick resolution.* (1) A respondent may resolve the proceeding at any time by paying the specific penalty proposed in the complaint or in complainant's prehearing exchange in full as specified by complainant and by filing with the Regional Hearing Clerk a copy of the check or other instrument of payment. If the complaint contains a specific proposed penalty and respondent pays that proposed penalty in full within 30 days after receiving the complaint, then no answer need be filed. This paragraph (a) shall not apply to any complaint which seeks a compliance or corrective action order or Permit Action. In a proceeding subject to the public comment provisions of §22.45, this quick resolution is not available until 10 days after the close of the comment period.

(2) Any respondent who wishes to resolve a proceeding by paying the proposed penalty instead of filing an answer, but who needs additional time to pay the penalty, may file a written statement with the Regional Hearing Clerk within 30 days after receiving the complaint stating that the respondent agrees to pay the proposed penalty in accordance with paragraph (a)(1) of this section. The written statement need not contain any response to, or admission of, the allegations in the complaint. Within 60 days after receiving the complaint, the respondent shall pay the full amount of the proposed penalty. Failure to make such payment within 60 days of receipt of the complaint may subject the respondent to default pursuant to §22.17.

(3) Upon receipt of payment in full, the Regional Judicial Officer or Regional Administrator, or, in a proceeding commenced at EPA Headquarters, the Environmental Appeals Board, shall issue a final order. Payment by respondent shall constitute a waiver of respondent's rights to contest the allegations and to appeal the final order.

(b) *Settlement.* (1) The Agency encourages settlement of a proceeding at any time if the settlement is consistent with the provisions and objectives of the Act and applicable regulations. The parties may engage in settlement discussions whether or not the respondent requests a hearing. Settlement discussions shall not affect the respondent's obligation to file a timely answer under §22.15.

(2) *Consent agreement.* Any and all terms and conditions of a settlement shall be recorded in a written consent agreement signed by all parties or their representatives. The consent agreement shall state that, for the purpose of the proceeding, respondent: Admits the jurisdictional allegations of the complaint; admits the facts stipulated in the consent agreement or neither admits nor denies specific factual allegations contained in the complaint; consents to the assessment of any stated civil penalty, to the issuance of any specified compliance or corrective action order, to any conditions specified in the consent agreement, and to any stated Permit Action; and waives any right to contest the allegations and its right to appeal the proposed final order accompanying the consent agreement. Where complainant elects to commence a proceeding pursuant to §22.13(b), the consent agreement shall also contain the elements described at §22.14(a)(1)-(3) and (8). The parties shall forward the executed consent agreement and a proposed final order to the Regional Judicial Officer or Regional Administrator, or, in a proceeding commenced at EPA Headquarters, the Environmental Appeals Board.

(3) *Conclusion of proceeding.* No settlement or consent agreement shall dispose of any proceeding under these Consolidated Rules of Practice without a final order from the Regional Judicial Officer or Regional Administrator, or, in a proceeding commenced at EPA Headquarters, the Environmental Appeals Board, ratifying the parties' consent agreement.

(c) *Scope of resolution or settlement.* Full payment of the penalty proposed in a complaint pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section or settlement pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section shall not in any case affect the right of the Agency or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. Full payment of the penalty proposed in a complaint pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section or settlement pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section shall only resolve respondent's liability for Federal civil penalties for the violations and facts alleged in the complaint.

(d) *Alternative means of dispute resolution.* (1) The parties may engage in any process within the scope of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act ("ADRA"), 5 U.S.C. 581 *et seq.*, which may facilitate voluntary settlement efforts. Such process shall be subject to the confidentiality provisions of the ADRA.

(2) Dispute resolution under this paragraph (d) does not divest the Presiding Officer of jurisdiction and does not automatically stay the proceeding. All provisions of these Consolidated Rules of Practice remain in effect notwithstanding any dispute resolution proceeding.

(3) The parties may choose any person to act as a neutral, or may move for the appointment of a neutral. If the Presiding Officer grants a motion for the appointment of a neutral, the Presiding Officer shall forward the motion to the Chief Administrative Law Judge, except in proceedings under subpart I of this part, in which the Presiding Officer shall forward the motion to the Regional Administrator. The Chief Administrative Law Judge or Regional Administrator, as appropriate, shall designate a qualified neutral.

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§22.19 Prehearing information exchange; prehearing conference; other discovery.

(a) *Prehearing information exchange.* (1) In accordance with an order issued by the Presiding Officer, each party shall file a prehearing information exchange. Except as provided in §22.22(a), a document or exhibit that has not been included in prehearing information exchange shall not be admitted into evidence, and any witness whose name and testimony summary has not been included in prehearing information exchange shall not be allowed to testify. Parties are not required to exchange information relating to settlement which would be excluded in the federal courts under Rule 408 of the Federal Rules of Evidence. Documents and exhibits shall be marked for identification as ordered by the Presiding Officer.

(2) Each party's prehearing information exchange shall contain:

(i) The names of any expert or other witnesses it intends to call at the hearing, together with a brief narrative summary of their expected testimony, or a statement that no witnesses will be called; and (ii) Copies of all documents and exhibits which it intends to introduce into evidence at the hearing.

(3) If the proceeding is for the assessment of a penalty and complainant has already specified a proposed penalty, complainant shall explain in its prehearing information exchange how the proposed penalty was calculated in accordance with any criteria set forth in the Act, and the respondent shall explain in its prehearing information exchange why the proposed penalty should be reduced or eliminated.

(4) If the proceeding is for the assessment of a penalty and complainant has not specified a proposed penalty, each party shall include in its prehearing information exchange all factual information it considers relevant to the assessment of a penalty. Within 15 days after respondent files its prehearing information exchange, complainant shall file a document specifying a proposed penalty and explaining how the proposed penalty was calculated in accordance with any criteria set forth in the Act.

(b) *Prehearing conference.* The Presiding Officer, at any time before the hearing begins, may direct the parties and their counsel or other representatives to participate in a conference to consider:

(1) Settlement of the case;

(2) Simplification of issues and stipulation of facts not in dispute;

(3) The necessity or desirability of amendments to pleadings;

(4) The exchange of exhibits, documents, prepared testimony, and admissions or stipulations of fact which will avoid unnecessary proof;

(5) The limitation of the number of expert or other witnesses;

(6) The time and place for the hearing; and

(7) Any other matters which may expedite the disposition of the proceeding.

(c) *Record of the prehearing conference.* No transcript of a prehearing conference relating to settlement shall be made. With respect to other prehearing conferences, no transcript of any prehearing conferences shall be made unless ordered by the Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer shall ensure that the record of the proceeding includes any stipulations, agreements, rulings or orders made during the conference.

(d) *Location of prehearing conference.* The prehearing conference shall be held in the county where the respondent resides or conducts the business which the hearing concerns, in the city in which the relevant Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office is located, or in Washington, DC, unless the Presiding Officer determines that there is good cause to hold it at another location or by telephone.

(e) *Other discovery.* (1) After the information exchange provided for in paragraph (a) of this section, a party may move for additional discovery. The motion shall specify the method of discovery sought, provide the proposed discovery instruments, and describe in detail the nature of the information and/or documents sought (and, where relevant, the proposed time and place where discovery would be conducted). The Presiding Officer may order such other discovery only if it:

(i) Will neither unreasonably delay the proceeding nor unreasonably burden the non-moving party;

(ii) Seeks information that is most reasonably obtained from the non-moving party, and which the non-moving party has refused to provide voluntarily; and

(iii) Seeks information that has significant probative value on a disputed issue of material fact relevant to liability or the relief sought.

(2) Settlement positions and information regarding their development (such as penalty calculations for purposes of settlement based upon Agency settlement policies) shall not be discoverable.

(3) The Presiding Officer may order depositions upon oral questions only in accordance with paragraph (e)(1) of this section and upon an additional finding that:

(i) The information sought cannot reasonably be obtained by alternative methods of discovery; or

(ii) There is a substantial reason to believe that relevant and probative evidence may otherwise not be preserved for presentation by a witness at the hearing.

(4) The Presiding Officer may require the attendance of witnesses or the production of documentary evidence by subpoena, if authorized under the Act. The Presiding Officer may issue a subpoena for discovery purposes only in accordance with paragraph (e)(1) of this section and upon an additional showing of the grounds and necessity therefor. Subpoenas shall be served in accordance with §22.5(b)(1). Witnesses summoned before the Presiding Officer shall be paid the same fees and mileage that are paid witnesses in the courts of the United States. Any fees shall be paid by the party at whose request the witness appears. Where a witness appears pursuant to a request initiated by the Presiding Officer, fees shall be paid by the Agency.

(5) Nothing in this paragraph (e) shall limit a party's right to request admissions or stipulations, a respondent's right to request Agency records under the Federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, or EPA's authority under any applicable law to conduct inspections, issue information request letters or administrative subpoenas, or otherwise obtain information.

(f) *Supplementing prior exchanges.* A party who has made an information exchange under paragraph (a) of this section, or who has exchanged information in response to a request for information or a discovery order pursuant to paragraph (e) of this section, shall promptly supplement or correct the exchange when the party learns that the information exchanged or response provided is incomplete, inaccurate or outdated, and the additional or corrective information has not otherwise been disclosed to the other party pursuant to this section.

(g) *Failure to exchange information.* Where a party fails to provide information within its control as required pursuant to this section, the Presiding Officer may, in his discretion:

(1) Infer that the information would be adverse to the party failing to provide it;

(2) Exclude the information from evidence; or

(3) Issue a default order under §22.17(c).

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§22.20 Accelerated decision; decision to dismiss.

(a) *General.* The Presiding Officer may at any time render an accelerated decision in favor of a party as to any or all parts of the proceeding, without further hearing or upon such limited additional evidence, such as affidavits, as he may require, if no genuine issue of material fact exists and a party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law. The Presiding Officer, upon motion of the respondent, may at any time dismiss a proceeding without further hearing or upon such limited additional evidence as he requires, on the basis of failure to establish a prima facie case or other grounds which show no right to relief on the part of the complainant.

(b) *Effect.* (1) If an accelerated decision or a decision to dismiss is issued as to all issues and claims in the proceeding, the decision constitutes an initial decision of the Presiding Officer, and shall be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

(2) If an accelerated decision or a decision to dismiss is rendered on less than all issues or claims in the proceeding, the Presiding Officer shall determine what material facts exist without substantial controversy and what material facts remain controverted. The partial accelerated decision or the order dismissing certain counts shall specify the facts which appear substantially uncontroverted, and the issues and claims upon which the hearing will proceed.

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Subpart D—Hearing Procedures

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§22.21 Assignment of Presiding Officer; scheduling the hearing.

(a) *Assignment of Presiding Officer.* When an answer is filed, the Regional Hearing Clerk shall forward a copy of the complaint, the answer, and any other documents filed in the proceeding to the Chief Administrative Law Judge who shall serve as Presiding Officer or assign another Administrative Law Judge as Presiding Officer. The Presiding Officer shall then obtain the case file from the Chief Administrative Law Judge and notify the parties of his assignment.

(b) *Notice of hearing.* The Presiding Officer shall hold a hearing if the proceeding presents genuine issues of material fact. The Presiding Officer shall serve upon the parties a notice of hearing setting forth a time and place for the hearing not later than 30 days prior to the date set for the hearing. The Presiding Officer may require the attendance of witnesses or the production of

documentary evidence by subpoena, if authorized under the Act, upon a showing of the grounds and necessity therefor, and the materiality and relevancy of the evidence to be adduced.

(c) *Postponement of hearing.* No request for postponement of a hearing shall be granted except upon motion and for good cause shown.

(d) *Location of the hearing.* The location of the hearing shall be determined in accordance with the method for determining the location of a prehearing conference under §22.19(d).

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§22.22 Evidence.

(a) *General.* (1) The Presiding Officer shall admit all evidence which is not irrelevant, immaterial, unduly repetitious, unreliable, or of little probative value, except that evidence relating to settlement which would be excluded in the federal courts under Rule 408 of the Federal Rules of Evidence (28 U.S.C.) is not admissible. If, however, a party fails to provide any document, exhibit, witness name or summary of expected testimony required to be exchanged under §22.19 (a), (e) or (f) to all parties at least 15 days before the hearing date, the Presiding Officer shall not admit the document, exhibit or testimony into evidence, unless the non-exchanging party had good cause for failing to exchange the required information and provided the required information to all other parties as soon as it had control of the information, or had good cause for not doing so.

(2) In the presentation, admission, disposition, and use of oral and written evidence, EPA officers, employees and authorized representatives shall preserve the confidentiality of information claimed confidential, whether or not the claim is made by a party to the proceeding, unless disclosure is authorized pursuant to 40 CFR part 2. A business confidentiality claim shall not prevent information from being introduced into evidence, but shall instead require that the information be treated in accordance with 40 CFR part 2, subpart B. The Presiding Officer or the Environmental Appeals Board may consider such evidence in a proceeding closed to the public, and which may be before some, but not all, parties, as necessary. Such proceeding shall be closed only to the extent necessary to comply with 40 CFR part 2, subpart B, for information claimed confidential. Any affected person may move for an order protecting the information claimed confidential.

(b) *Examination of witnesses.* Witnesses shall be examined orally, under oath or affirmation, except as otherwise provided in paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section or by the Presiding Officer. Parties shall have the right to cross-examine a witness who appears at the hearing provided that such cross-examination is not unduly repetitious.

(c) *Written testimony.* The Presiding Officer may admit and insert into the record as evidence, in lieu of oral testimony, written testimony prepared by a witness. The admissibility of any part of the testimony shall be subject to the same rules as if the testimony were produced under oral examination. Before any such testimony is read or admitted into evidence, the party who has called the witness shall deliver a copy of the testimony to the Presiding Officer, the reporter, and opposing counsel. The witness presenting the testimony shall swear to or affirm the testimony and shall be subject to appropriate oral cross-examination.

(d) *Admission of affidavits where the witness is unavailable.* The Presiding Officer may admit into evidence affidavits of witnesses who are unavailable. The term "unavailable" shall have the meaning accorded to it by Rule 804(a) of the Federal Rules of Evidence.

(e) *Exhibits.* Where practicable, an original and one copy of each exhibit shall be filed with the Presiding Officer for the record and a copy shall be furnished to each party. A true copy of any exhibit may be substituted for the original.

(f) *Official notice.* Official notice may be taken of any matter which can be judicially noticed in the Federal courts and of other facts within the specialized knowledge and experience of the Agency. Opposing parties shall be given adequate opportunity to show that such facts are erroneously noticed.

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§22.23 Objections and offers of proof.

(a) *Objection.* Any objection concerning the conduct of the hearing may be stated orally or in writing during the hearing. The party raising the objection must supply a short statement of its grounds. The ruling by the Presiding Officer on any objection and the reasons given for it shall be part of the record. An exception to each objection overruled shall be automatic and is not waived by further participation in the hearing.

(b) *Offers of proof.* Whenever the Presiding Officer denies a motion for admission into evidence, the party offering the information may make an offer of proof, which shall be included in the record. The offer of proof for excluded oral testimony shall consist of a brief statement describing the nature of the information excluded. The offer of proof for excluded documents or exhibits shall consist of the documents or exhibits excluded. Where the Environmental Appeals Board decides that the ruling of the Presiding Officer in excluding the information from evidence was both erroneous and prejudicial, the hearing may be reopened to permit the taking of such evidence.

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§22.24 Burden of presentation; burden of persuasion; preponderance of the evidence standard.

(a) The complainant has the burdens of presentation and persuasion that the violation occurred as set forth in the complaint and that the relief sought is appropriate. Following complainant's establishment of a prima facie case, respondent shall have the burden of presenting any defense to the allegations set forth in the complaint and any response or evidence with respect to the appropriate relief. The respondent has the burdens of presentation and persuasion for any affirmative defenses.

(b) Each matter of controversy shall be decided by the Presiding Officer upon a preponderance of the evidence.

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§22.25 Filing the transcript.

The hearing shall be transcribed verbatim. Promptly following the taking of the last evidence, the reporter shall transmit to the Regional Hearing Clerk the original and as many copies of the transcript of testimony as are called for in the reporter's contract with the Agency, and also shall transmit to the Presiding Officer a copy of the transcript. A certificate of service shall accompany each copy of the transcript. The Regional Hearing Clerk shall notify all parties of the availability of the transcript and shall furnish the parties with a copy of the transcript upon payment of the cost of reproduction, unless a party can show that the cost is unduly burdensome. Any person not a party to the proceeding may receive a copy of the transcript upon payment of the reproduction fee, except for those parts of the transcript ordered to be kept confidential by the Presiding Officer. Any party may file a motion to conform the transcript to the actual testimony within 30 days after receipt of the transcript, or 45 days after the parties are notified of the availability of the transcript, whichever is sooner.

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§22.26 Proposed findings, conclusions, and order.

After the hearing, any party may file proposed findings of fact, conclusions of law, and a proposed order, together with briefs in support thereof. The Presiding Officer shall set a schedule for filing these documents and any reply briefs, but shall not require them before the last date for filing motions under §22.25 to conform the transcript to the actual testimony. All submissions shall be in writing, shall be served upon all parties, and shall contain adequate references to the record and authorities relied on.

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Subpart E—Initial Decision, Motion To Reopen a Hearing, and Motion To Set Aside a Default Order

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§22.27 Initial Decision.

(a) *Filing and contents.* After the period for filing briefs under §22.26 has expired, the Presiding Officer shall issue an initial decision. The initial decision shall contain findings of fact, conclusions regarding all material issues of law or discretion, as well as reasons therefor, and, if appropriate, a recommended civil penalty assessment, compliance order, corrective action order, or Permit Action. Upon receipt of an initial decision, the Regional Hearing Clerk shall forward copies of the initial decision to the Environmental Appeals Board and the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

(b) *Amount of civil penalty.* If the Presiding Officer determines that a violation has occurred and the complaint seeks a civil penalty, the Presiding Officer shall determine the amount of the recommended civil penalty based on the evidence in the record and in accordance with any penalty criteria set forth in the Act. The Presiding Officer shall consider any civil penalty guidelines issued under the Act. The Presiding Officer shall explain in detail in the initial decision how the penalty to be assessed corresponds to any penalty criteria set forth in the Act. If the Presiding Officer decides to assess a penalty different in amount from the penalty proposed by complainant, the Presiding Officer shall set forth in the initial decision the specific reasons for the increase or decrease. If the respondent has defaulted, the Presiding Officer shall not assess a penalty greater than that proposed by complainant in the complaint, the prehearing information exchange or the motion for default, whichever is less.

(c) *Effect of initial decision.* The initial decision of the Presiding Officer shall become a final order 45 days after its service upon the parties and without further proceedings unless:

- (1) A party moves to reopen the hearing;
- (2) A party appeals the initial decision to the Environmental Appeals Board;
- (3) A party moves to set aside a default order that constitutes an initial decision; or
- (4) The Environmental Appeals Board elects to review the initial decision on its own initiative.

(d) *Exhaustion of administrative remedies.* Where a respondent fails to appeal an initial decision to the Environmental Appeals Board pursuant to §22.30 and that initial decision becomes a final order pursuant to paragraph (c) of this section,

respondent waives its rights to judicial review. An initial decision that is appealed to the Environmental Appeals Board shall not be final or operative pending the Environmental Appeals Board's issuance of a final order.

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§22.28 Motion to reopen a hearing or to set aside a default order.

(a) *Motion to reopen a hearing—(1) Filing and content.* A motion to reopen a hearing to take further evidence must be filed no later than 20 days after service of the initial decision and shall state the specific grounds upon which relief is sought. Where the movant seeks to introduce new evidence, the motion shall: State briefly the nature and purpose of the evidence to be adduced; show that such evidence is not cumulative; and show good cause why such evidence was not adduced at the hearing. The motion shall be made to the Presiding Officer and filed with the Headquarters or Regional Hearing Clerk, as appropriate. A copy of the motion shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board in the manner prescribed by §22.5(a)(1).

(2) *Disposition of motion to reopen a hearing.* Within 15 days following the service of a motion to reopen a hearing, any other party to the proceeding may file with the Headquarters or Regional Hearing Clerk, as appropriate, and serve on all other parties a response. A reopened hearing shall be governed by the applicable sections of these Consolidated Rules of Practice. The timely filing of a motion to reopen a hearing shall automatically toll the running of the time periods for an initial decision becoming final under §22.27(c), for appeal under §22.30, and for the Environmental Appeals Board to elect to review the initial decision on its own initiative pursuant to §22.30(b). These time periods begin again in full when the Presiding Officer serves an order denying the motion to reopen the hearing or an amended decision. The Presiding Officer may summarily deny subsequent motions to reopen a hearing filed by the same party if the Presiding Officer determines that the motion was filed to delay the finality of the decision.

(b) *Motion to set aside default order—(1) Filing and content.* A motion to set aside a default order must be filed no later than 20 days after service of the initial decision and shall state the specific grounds upon which relief is sought. The motion shall be made to the Presiding Officer and filed with the Headquarters or Regional Hearing Clerk, as appropriate. A copy of the motion shall be filed with the Clerk of the Board in the manner prescribed by §22.5(a)(1).

(2) *Effect of motion to set aside default.* The timely filing of a motion to set aside a default order automatically tolls the running of the time periods for an initial decision becoming final under §22.27(c), for appeal under §22.30(a), and for the Environmental Appeals Board to elect to review the initial decision on its own initiative pursuant to §22.30(b). These time periods begin again in full when the Presiding Officer serves an order denying the motion to set aside or an amended decision. The Presiding Officer may summarily deny subsequent motions to set aside a default order filed by the same party if the Presiding Officer determines that the motion was filed to delay the finality of the decision.

[82 FR 2235, Jan. 9, 2017]

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Subpart F—Appeals and Administrative Review

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§22.29 Appeal from or review of interlocutory orders or rulings.

(a) *Request for interlocutory appeal.* Appeals from orders or rulings other than an initial decision shall be allowed only at the discretion of the Environmental Appeals Board. A party seeking interlocutory appeal of such orders or rulings to the Environmental Appeals Board shall file a motion within 10 days of service of the order or ruling, requesting that the Presiding Officer forward the order or ruling to the Environmental Appeals Board for review, and stating briefly the grounds for the appeal.

(b) *Availability of interlocutory appeal.* The Presiding Officer may recommend any order or ruling for review by the Environmental Appeals Board when:

(1) The order or ruling involves an important question of law or policy concerning which there is substantial grounds for difference of opinion; and

(2) Either an immediate appeal from the order or ruling will materially advance the ultimate termination of the proceeding, or review after the final order is issued will be inadequate or ineffective.

(c) *Interlocutory review.* If the Presiding Officer has recommended review and the Environmental Appeals Board determines that interlocutory review is inappropriate, or takes no action within 30 days of the Presiding Officer's recommendation, the appeal is dismissed. When the Presiding Officer declines to recommend review of an order or ruling, it may be reviewed by the Environmental Appeals Board only upon appeal from the initial decision, except when the Environmental Appeals Board determines, upon motion of a party and in exceptional circumstances, that to delay review would be contrary to the public interest. Such motion shall be filed within 10 days of service of an order of the Presiding Officer refusing to recommend such order or ruling for interlocutory review.

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§22.30 Appeal from or review of initial decision.

(a) *Notice of appeal and appeal brief*—(1) *Filing an appeal*—(i) *Filing deadline and who may appeal*. Within 30 days after the initial decision is served, any party may file an appeal from any adverse order or ruling of the Presiding Officer.

(ii) *Filing requirements*. Appellant must file a notice of appeal and an accompanying appellate brief with the Environmental Appeals Board as set forth in §22.5(a). One copy of any document filed with the Clerk of the Board shall also be served on the Headquarters or Regional Hearing Clerk, as appropriate. Appellant also shall serve a copy of the notice of appeal upon the Presiding Officer. Appellant shall simultaneously serve one copy of the notice and brief upon all other parties and non-party participants.

(iii) *Content*. The notice of appeal shall summarize the order or ruling, or part thereof, appealed from. The appellant's brief shall contain tables of contents and authorities (with appropriate page references), a statement of the issues presented for review, a statement of the nature of the case and the facts relevant to the issues presented for review (with specific citation or other appropriate reference to the record (e.g., by including the document name and page number)), argument on the issues presented, a short conclusion stating the precise relief sought, alternative findings of fact, and alternative conclusions regarding issues of law or discretion. If any appellant includes attachments to its notice of appeal or appellate brief, the notice of appeal or appellate brief shall contain a table that provides the title of each appended document and assigns a label identifying where it may be found in the record.

(iv) *Multiple appeals*. If a timely notice of appeal is filed by a party, any other party may file a notice of appeal and accompanying appellate brief on any issue within 20 days after the date on which the first notice of appeal was served or within the time to appeal in paragraph (a)(1)(i) of this section, whichever period ends later.

(2) *Response brief*. Within 20 days of service of notices of appeal and briefs under paragraph (a)(1) of this section, any other party or non-party participant may file with the Environmental Appeals Board an original and one copy of a response brief responding to arguments raised by the appellant, together with specific citation or other appropriate reference to the record, initial decision, and opposing brief (e.g., by including the document name and page number). Appellee shall simultaneously serve one copy of the response brief upon each party, non-party participant, and the Regional Hearing Clerk. Response briefs shall be limited to the scope of the appeal brief. If any responding party or non-party participant includes attachments to its response brief, the response brief shall contain a table that provides the title of each appended document and assigns a label identifying where it may be found in the record. Further briefs may be filed only with leave of the Environmental Appeals Board.

(3) *Length*—(i) *Briefs*. Unless otherwise ordered by the Environmental Appeals Board, appellate and response briefs may not exceed 14,000 words, and all other briefs may not exceed 7000 words. Filers may rely on the word-processing system used to determine the word count. As an alternative to this word limitation, filers may comply with a 30-page limit for appellate and response briefs, or a 15-page limit for replies. Headings, footnotes, and quotations count toward the word limitation. The table of contents, table of authorities, table of attachments (if any), statement requesting oral argument (if any), statement of compliance with the word limitation, and any attachments do not count toward the word or page-length limitation. The Environmental Appeals Board may exclude any appeal, response, or other brief that does not meet word or page-length limitations. Where a party can demonstrate a compelling and documented need to exceed such limitations, such party must seek advance leave of the Environmental Appeals Board to file a longer brief. Such requests are discouraged and will be granted only in unusual circumstances.

(ii) *Motions*. Unless otherwise ordered by the Environmental Appeals Board, motions and any responses or replies may not exceed 7000 words. Filers may rely on the word-processing system used to determine the word count. As an alternative to this word limitation, filers may comply with a 15-page limit. Headings, footnotes, and quotations count toward the word or page-length limitation. The Environmental Appeals Board may exclude any motion that does not meet word limitations. Where a party can demonstrate a compelling and documented need to exceed such limitations, such party must seek advance leave of the Environmental Appeals Board. Such requests are discouraged and will be granted only in unusual circumstances.

(b) *Review initiated by the Environmental Appeals Board*. Whenever the Environmental Appeals Board determines to review an initial decision on its own initiative, it shall issue an order notifying the parties and the Presiding Officer of its intent to review that decision. The Clerk of the Board shall serve the order upon the Regional Hearing Clerk, the Presiding Officer, and the parties within 45 days after the initial decision was served upon the parties. In that order or in a later order, the Environmental Appeals Board shall identify any issues to be briefed by the parties and establish a time schedule for filing and service of briefs.

(c) *Scope of appeal or review*. The parties' rights of appeal shall be limited to those issues raised during the course of the proceeding and by the initial decision, and to issues concerning subject matter jurisdiction. If the Environmental Appeals Board determines that issues raised, but not appealed by the parties, should be argued, it shall give the parties written notice of such determination to allow preparation of adequate argument. The Environmental Appeals Board may remand the case to the Presiding Officer for further proceedings.

(d) *Argument before the Environmental Appeals Board*. The Environmental Appeals Board may, at its discretion in response to a request or on its own initiative, order oral argument on any or all issues in a proceeding. To request oral argument, a party must include in its substantive brief a statement explaining why oral argument is necessary. The Environmental Appeals Board may, by order, establish additional procedures governing any oral argument before the Environmental Appeals Board.

(e) *Motions on appeal*—(1) *General*. All motions made during the course of an appeal shall conform to §22.16 unless otherwise provided. In advance of filing a motion, parties must attempt to ascertain whether the other party(ies) concur(s) or object(s) to the motion and must indicate in the motion the attempt made and the response obtained.

(2) *Disposition of a motion for a procedural order*. The Environmental Appeals Board may act on a motion for a procedural order at any time without awaiting a response.

(3) *Timing on motions for extension of time*. Parties must file motions for extensions of time sufficiently in advance of the due date to allow other parties to have a reasonable opportunity to respond to the request for more time and to provide the Environmental Appeals Board with a reasonable opportunity to issue an order.

(f) *Decision*. The Environmental Appeals Board shall adopt, modify, or set aside the findings of fact and conclusions of law or discretion contained in the decision or order being reviewed, and shall set forth in the final order the reasons for its actions. The Environmental Appeals Board may assess a penalty that is higher or lower than the amount recommended to be assessed in the decision or order being reviewed or from the amount sought in the complaint, except that if the order being reviewed is a default order, the Environmental Appeals Board may not increase the amount of the penalty above that proposed in the complaint or in the motion for default, whichever is less. The Environmental Appeals Board may adopt, modify or set aside any recommended compliance or corrective action order or Permit Action. The Environmental Appeals Board may remand the case to the Presiding Officer for further action.

[64 FR 40176, July 23, 1999, as amended at 68 FR 2204, Jan. 16, 2003; 69 FR 77639, Dec. 28, 2004; 79 FR 65901, Nov. 6, 2014; 80 FR 13252, Mar. 13, 2015; 82 FR 2235, Jan. 9, 2017]

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Subpart G—Final Order

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§22.31 Final order.

(a) *Effect of final order*. A final order constitutes the final Agency action in a proceeding. The final order shall not in any case affect the right of the Agency or the United States to pursue appropriate injunctive or other equitable relief or criminal sanctions for any violations of law. The final order shall resolve only those causes of action alleged in the complaint, or for proceedings commenced pursuant to §22.13(b), alleged in the consent agreement. The final order does not waive, extinguish or otherwise affect respondent's obligation to comply with all applicable provisions of the Act and regulations promulgated thereunder.

(b) *Effective date*. A final order is effective upon filing. Where an initial decision becomes a final order pursuant to §22.27 (c), the final order is effective 45 days after the initial decision is served on the parties.

(c) *Payment of a civil penalty*. The respondent shall pay the full amount of any civil penalty assessed in the final order within 30 days after the effective date of the final order unless otherwise ordered. Payment shall be made by sending a cashier's check or certified check to the payee specified in the complaint, unless otherwise instructed by the complainant. The check shall note the case title and docket number. Respondent shall serve copies of the check or other instrument of payment on the Regional Hearing Clerk and on complainant. Collection of interest on overdue payments shall be in accordance with the Debt Collection Act, 31 U.S.C. 3717.

(d) *Other relief*. Any final order requiring compliance or corrective action, or a Permit Action, shall become effective and enforceable without further proceedings on the effective date of the final order unless otherwise ordered.

(e) *Final orders to Federal agencies on appeal*. (1) A final order of the Environmental Appeals Board issued pursuant to §22.30 to a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States shall become effective 30 days after its service upon the parties unless the head of the affected department, agency, or instrumentality requests a conference with the Administrator in writing and serves a copy of the request on the parties of record within 30 days of service of the final order. If a timely request is made, a decision by the Administrator shall become the final order.

(2) A motion for reconsideration pursuant to §22.32 shall not toll the 30-day period described in paragraph (e)(1) of this section unless specifically so ordered by the Environmental Appeals Board.

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§22.32 Motion to reconsider a final order.

Motions to reconsider a final order issued pursuant to §22.30 shall be filed within 10 days after service of the final order. Motions must set forth the matters claimed to have been erroneously decided and the nature of the alleged errors. Motions for reconsideration under this provision shall be directed to, and decided by, the Environmental Appeals Board. Motions for reconsideration directed to the Administrator, rather than to the Environmental Appeals Board, will not be considered, except in cases that the Environmental Appeals Board has referred to the Administrator pursuant to §22.4(a) and in which the

Administrator has issued the final order. A motion for reconsideration shall not stay the effective date of the final order unless so ordered by the Environmental Appeals Board.

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Subpart H—Supplemental Rules

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§22.33 [Reserved]

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§22.34 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under the Clean Air Act.

(a) *Scope.* This section shall apply, in conjunction with §§22.1 through 22.32, in administrative proceedings to assess a civil penalty conducted under sections 113(d), 205(c), 211(d), and 213(d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7413(d), 7524(c), 7545(d), and 7547(d)), and a determination of nonconforming engines, vehicles or equipment under sections 207(c) and 213(d) of the Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7541(c) and 7547(d)). Where inconsistencies exist between this section and §§22.1 through 22.32, this section shall apply.

(b) *Issuance of notice.* Prior to the issuance of a final order assessing a civil penalty or a final determination of nonconforming engines, vehicles or equipment, the person to whom the order or determination is to be issued shall be given written notice of the proposed issuance of the order or determination. Service of a complaint or a consent agreement and final order pursuant to §22.13 satisfies these notice requirements.

[81 FR 73971, Oct. 25, 2016]

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§22.35 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

(a) *Scope.* This section shall apply, in conjunction with §§22.1 through 22.32, in administrative proceedings to assess a civil penalty conducted under section 14(a) of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act as amended (7 U.S.C. 1361(a)). Where inconsistencies exist between this section and §§22.1 through 22.32, this section shall apply.

(b) *Venue.* The prehearing conference and the hearing shall be held in the county, parish, or incorporated city of the residence of the person charged, unless otherwise agreed in writing by all parties. For a person whose residence is outside the United States and outside any territory or possession of the United States, the prehearing conference and the hearing shall be held at the EPA office listed at 40 CFR 1.7 that is closest to either the person's primary place of business within the United States, or the primary place of business of the person's U.S. agent, unless otherwise agreed by all parties.

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§22.36 [Reserved]

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§22.37 Supplemental rules governing administrative proceedings under the Solid Waste Disposal Act.

(a) *Scope.* This section shall apply, in conjunction with §§22.1 through 22.32, in administrative proceedings under sections 3005(d) and (e), 3008, 9003 and 9006 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6925(d) and (e), 6928, 6991b and 6991e) ("SWDA"). Where inconsistencies exist between this section and §§22.1 through 22.32, this section shall apply.

(b) *Corrective action and compliance orders.* A complaint may contain a compliance order issued under section 3008(a) or section 9006(a), or a corrective action order issued under section 3008(h) or section 9003(h)(4) of the SWDA. Any such order shall automatically become a final order unless, no later than 30 days after the order is served, the respondent requests a hearing pursuant to §22.15.

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§22.38 Supplemental rules of practice governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under the Clean Water Act.

(a) *Scope.* This section shall apply, in conjunction with §§22.1 through 22.32 and §22.45, in administrative proceedings for the assessment of any civil penalty under section 309(g) or section 311(b)(6) of the Clean Water Act ("CWA") (33 U.S.C. 1319 (g) and 1321(b)(6)). Where inconsistencies exist between this section and §§22.1 through 22.32, this section shall apply.

(b) *Consultation with States.* For proceedings pursuant to section 309(g), the complainant shall provide the State agency with the most direct authority over the matters at issue in the case an opportunity to consult with the complainant. Complainant

shall notify the State agency within 30 days following proof of service of the complaint on the respondent or, in the case of a proceeding proposed to be commenced pursuant to §22.13(b), no less than 40 days before the issuance of an order assessing a civil penalty.

(c) *Administrative procedure and judicial review.* Action of the Administrator for which review could have been obtained under section 509(b)(1) of the CWA, 33 U.S.C. 1369(b)(1), shall not be subject to review in an administrative proceeding for the assessment of a civil penalty under section 309(g) or section 311(b)(6).

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§22.39 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended.

(a) *Scope.* This section shall apply, in conjunction with §§22.10 through 22.32, in administrative proceedings for the assessment of any civil penalty under section 109 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended (42 U.S.C. 9609). Where inconsistencies exist between this section and §§22.1 through 22.32, this section shall apply.

(b) *Judicial review.* Any person who requested a hearing with respect to a Class II civil penalty under section 109(b) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9609(b), and who is the recipient of a final order assessing a civil penalty may file a petition for judicial review of such order with the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia or for any other circuit in which such person resides or transacts business. Any person who requested a hearing with respect to a Class I civil penalty under section 109(a)(4) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9609(a)(4), and who is the recipient of a final order assessing the civil penalty may file a petition for judicial review of such order with the appropriate district court of the United States. All petitions must be filed within 30 days of the date the order making the assessment was served on the parties.

(c) *Payment of civil penalty assessed.* Payment of civil penalties assessed in the final order shall be made by forwarding a cashier's check, payable to the "EPA, Hazardous Substances Superfund," in the amount assessed, and noting the case title and docket number, to the appropriate regional Superfund Lockbox Depository.

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§22.40 [Reserved]

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§22.41 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties under Title II of the Toxic Substance Control Act, enacted as section 2 of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA).

(a) *Scope.* This section shall apply, in conjunction with §§22.1 through 22.32, in administrative proceedings to assess a civil penalty conducted under section 207 of the Toxic Substances Control Act ("TSCA") (15 U.S.C. 2647). Where inconsistencies exist between this section and §§22.1 through 22.32, this section shall apply.

(b) *Collection of civil penalty.* Any civil penalty collected under TSCA section 207 shall be used by the local educational agency for purposes of complying with Title II of TSCA. Any portion of a civil penalty remaining unspent after a local educational agency achieves compliance shall be deposited into the Asbestos Trust Fund established under section 5 of AHERA.

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§22.42 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties for violations of compliance orders issued to owners or operators of public water systems under part B of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

(a) *Scope.* This section shall apply, in conjunction with §§22.1 through 22.32, in administrative proceedings to assess a civil penalty under section 1414(g)(3)(B) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300g-3(g)(3)(B). Where inconsistencies exist between this section and §§22.1 through 22.32, this section shall apply.

(b) *Choice of forum.* A complaint which specifies that subpart I of this part applies shall also state that respondent has a right to elect a hearing on the record in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 554, and that respondent waives this right unless it requests in its answer a hearing on the record in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 554. Upon such request, the Regional Hearing Clerk shall recaption the documents in the record as necessary, and notify the parties of the changes.

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§22.43 Supplemental rules governing the administrative assessment of civil penalties against a federal agency under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

(a) *Scope.* This section shall apply, in conjunction with §§22.1 through 22.32, in administrative proceedings to assess a civil penalty against a federal agency under section 1447(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, 42 U.S.C. 300j-6(b). Where inconsistencies exist between this section and §§22.1 through 22.32, this section shall apply.

(b) *Effective date of final penalty order.* Any penalty order issued pursuant to this section and section 1447(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act shall become effective 30 days after it has been served on the parties.

(c) *Public notice of final penalty order.* Upon the issuance of a final penalty order under this section, the Administrator shall provide public notice of the order by publication, and by providing notice to any person who requests such notice. The notice shall include:

- (1) The docket number of the order;
- (2) The address and phone number of the Regional Hearing Clerk from whom a copy of the order may be obtained;
- (3) The location of the facility where violations were found;
- (4) A description of the violations;
- (5) The penalty that was assessed; and

(6) A notice that any interested person may, within 30 days of the date the order becomes final, obtain judicial review of the penalty order pursuant to section 1447(b) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, and instruction that persons seeking judicial review shall provide copies of any appeal to the persons described in 40 CFR 135.11(a).

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§22.44 Supplemental rules of practice governing the termination of permits under section 402(a) of the Clean Water Act or under section 3008(a)(3) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

(a) *Scope of this subpart.* The supplemental rules of practice in this subpart shall also apply in conjunction with the Consolidated Rules of Practice in this part and with the administrative proceedings for the termination of permits under section 402(a) of the Clean Water Act or under section 3008(a)(3) of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Notwithstanding the Consolidated Rules of Practice, these supplemental rules shall govern with respect to the termination of such permits.

(b) In any proceeding to terminate a permit for cause under §122.64 or §270.43 of this chapter during the term of the permit:

- (1) The complaint shall, in addition to the requirements of §22.14(b), contain any additional information specified in §124.8 of this chapter;
- (2) The Director (as defined in §124.2 of this chapter) shall provide public notice of the complaint in accordance with §124.10 of this chapter, and allow for public comment in accordance with §124.11 of this chapter; and
- (3) The Presiding Officer shall admit into evidence the contents of the Administrative Record described in §124.9 of this chapter, and any public comments received.

[65 FR 30904, May 15, 2000]

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§22.45 Supplemental rules governing public notice and comment in proceedings under sections 309(g) and 311(b)(6)(B)(ii) of the Clean Water Act and section 1423(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act.

(a) *Scope.* This section shall apply, in conjunction with §§22.1 through 22.32, in administrative proceedings for the assessment of any civil penalty under sections 309(g) and 311(b)(6)(B)(ii) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1319(g) and 1321(b)(6)(B)(ii)), and under section 1423(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300h-2(c)). Where inconsistencies exist between this section and §§22.1 through 22.32, this section shall apply.

(b) *Public notice*—(1) *General.* Complainant shall notify the public before assessing a civil penalty. Such notice shall be provided within 30 days following proof of service of the complaint on the respondent or, in the case of a proceeding proposed to be commenced pursuant to §22.13(b), no less than 40 days before the issuance of an order assessing a civil penalty. The notice period begins upon first publication of notice.

(2) *Type and content of public notice.* The complainant shall provide public notice of the complaint (or the proposed consent agreement if §22.13(b) is applicable) by a method reasonably calculated to provide notice, and shall also provide notice directly to any person who requests such notice. The notice shall include:

- (i) The docket number of the proceeding;
- (ii) The name and address of the complainant and respondent, and the person from whom information on the proceeding may be obtained, and the address of the Regional Hearing Clerk to whom appropriate comments shall be directed;
- (iii) The location of the site or facility from which the violations are alleged, and any applicable permit number;

(iv) A description of the violation alleged and the relief sought; and

(v) A notice that persons shall submit comments to the Regional Hearing Clerk, and the deadline for such submissions.

(c) *Comment by a person who is not a party.* The following provisions apply in regard to comment by a person not a party to a proceeding:

(1) *Participation in proceeding.* (i) Any person wishing to participate in the proceedings must notify the Regional Hearing Clerk in writing within the public notice period under paragraph (b)(1) of this section. The person must provide his name, complete mailing address, and state that he wishes to participate in the proceeding.

(ii) The Presiding Officer shall provide notice of any hearing on the merits to any person who has met the requirements of paragraph (c)(1)(i) of this section at least 20 days prior to the scheduled hearing.

(iii) A commenter may present written comments for the record at any time prior to the close of the record.

(iv) A commenter wishing to present evidence at a hearing on the merits shall notify, in writing, the Presiding Officer and the parties of its intent at least 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing. This notice must include a copy of any document to be introduced, a description of the evidence to be presented, and the identity of any witness (and qualifications if an expert), and the subject matter of the testimony.

(v) In any hearing on the merits, a commenter may present evidence, including direct testimony subject to cross examination by the parties.

(vi) The Presiding Officer shall have the discretion to establish the extent of commenter participation in any other scheduled activity.

(2) *Limitations.* A commenter may not cross-examine any witness in any hearing and shall not be subject to or participate in any discovery or prehearing exchange.

(3) *Quick resolution and settlement.* No proceeding subject to the public notice and comment provisions of paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section may be resolved or settled under §22.18, or commenced under §22.13(b), until 10 days after the close of the comment period provided in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(4) *Petition to set aside a consent agreement and proposed final order.* (i) Complainant shall provide to each commenter, by certified mail, return receipt requested, but not to the Regional Hearing Clerk or Presiding Officer, a copy of any consent agreement between the parties and the proposed final order.

(ii) Within 30 days of receipt of the consent agreement and proposed final order a commenter may petition the Regional Administrator (or, for cases commenced at EPA Headquarters, the Environmental Appeals Board), to set aside the consent agreement and proposed final order on the basis that material evidence was not considered. Copies of the petition shall be served on the parties, but shall not be sent to the Regional Hearing Clerk or the Presiding Officer.

(iii) Within 15 days of receipt of a petition, the complainant may, with notice to the Regional Administrator or Environmental Appeals Board and to the commenter, withdraw the consent agreement and proposed final order to consider the matters raised in the petition. If the complainant does not give notice of withdrawal within 15 days of receipt of the petition, the Regional Administrator or Environmental Appeals Board shall assign a Petition Officer to consider and rule on the petition. The Petition Officer shall be another Presiding Officer, not otherwise involved in the case. Notice of this assignment shall be sent to the parties, and to the Presiding Officer.

(iv) Within 30 days of assignment of the Petition Officer, the complainant shall present to the Petition Officer a copy of the complaint and a written response to the petition. A copy of the response shall be provided to the parties and to the commenter, but not to the Regional Hearing Clerk or Presiding Officer.

(v) The Petition Officer shall review the petition, and complainant's response, and shall file with the Regional Hearing Clerk, with copies to the parties, the commenter, and the Presiding Officer, written findings as to:

(A) The extent to which the petition states an issue relevant and material to the issuance of the proposed final order;

(B) Whether complainant adequately considered and responded to the petition; and

(C) Whether a resolution of the proceeding by the parties is appropriate without a hearing.

(vi) Upon a finding by the Petition Officer that a hearing is appropriate, the Presiding Officer shall order that the consent agreement and proposed final order be set aside and shall establish a schedule for a hearing.

(vii) Upon a finding by the Petition Officer that a resolution of the proceeding without a hearing is appropriate, the Petition Officer shall issue an order denying the petition and stating reasons for the denial. The Petition Officer shall:

(A) File the order with the Regional Hearing Clerk;

(B) Serve copies of the order on the parties and the commenter; and

(C) Provide public notice of the order.

(viii) Upon a finding by the Petition Officer that a resolution of the proceeding without a hearing is appropriate, the Regional Administrator may issue the proposed final order, which shall become final 30 days after both the order denying the petition and a properly signed consent agreement are filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, unless further petition for review is filed by a notice of appeal in the appropriate United States District Court, with coincident notice by certified mail to the Administrator and the Attorney General. Written notice of appeal also shall be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, and sent to the Presiding Officer and the parties.

(ix) If judicial review of the final order is denied, the final order shall become effective 30 days after such denial has been filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk.

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§§22.46-22.49 [Reserved]

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Subpart I—Administrative Proceedings Not Governed by Section 554 of the Administrative Procedure Act

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§22.50 Scope of this subpart.

(a) *Scope.* This subpart applies to all adjudicatory proceedings for:

(1) The assessment of a penalty under sections 309(g)(2)(A) and 311(b)(6)(B)(i) of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1319(g)(2)(A) and 1321(b)(6)(B)(i)).

(2) The assessment of a penalty under sections 1414(g)(3)(B) and 1423(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300g-3(g)(3)(B) and 300h-2(c)), except where a respondent in a proceeding under section 1414(g)(3)(B) requests in its answer a hearing on the record in accordance with section 554 of the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 554.

(b) *Relationship to other provisions.* Sections 22.1 through 22.45 apply to proceedings under this subpart, except for the following provisions which do not apply: §§22.11, 22.16(c), 22.21(a), and 22.29. Where inconsistencies exist between this subpart and subparts A through G of this part, this subpart shall apply. Where inconsistencies exist between this subpart and subpart H of this part, subpart H shall apply.

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§22.51 Presiding Officer.

The Presiding Officer shall be a Regional Judicial Officer. The Presiding Officer shall conduct the hearing, and rule on all motions until an initial decision has become final or has been appealed.

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§22.52 Information exchange and discovery.

Respondent's information exchange pursuant to §22.19(a) shall include information on any economic benefit resulting from any activity or failure to act which is alleged in the administrative complaint to be a violation of applicable law, including its gross revenues, delayed or avoided costs. Discovery under §22.19(e) shall not be authorized, except for discovery of information concerning respondent's economic benefit from alleged violations and information concerning respondent's ability to pay a penalty.

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