Dated: November 9, 2005.

David P. Tenny,

Deputy Undersecretary—Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dated: November 8, 2005.

P. Lynn Scarlett,

Assistant Secretary—Policy, Management and Budget, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Dated: November 8, 2005.

James W. Balsiger,

Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce.

■ For the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Departments of Agriculture, the Interior, and Commerce amend titles 7, 43, and 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations as set forth below.

Department of Agriculture

7 CFR Subtitle A

PART 1—ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS

■ 1. The Department of Agriculture adds subpart O to part 1, title 7, to read as follows:

Subpart O—Conditions in FERC Hydropower Licenses

General Provisions

Sec.

1.601 What is the purpose of this subpart, and to what license proceedings does it apply?

1.602 What terms are used in this subpart?

1.603 How are time periods computed?

1.604 What deadlines apply to pending applications?

Hearing Process

Representatives

1.610 Who may represent a party, and what requirements apply to a representative?

Document Filing and Service

1.611 What are the form and content requirements for documents under §§ 1.611 through 1.660?

1.612 Where and how must documents be filed?

1.613 What are the requirements for service of documents?

Initiation of Hearing Process

1.620 What supporting information must the Forest Service provide with its preliminary conditions?

1.621 How do I request a hearing?

1.622 How do I file a notice of intervention and response?

1.623 When will hearing requests be consolidated?

1.624 How will the Forest Service respond to any hearing requests?

1.625 What will the Forest Service do with any hearing requests?
1.626 What regulations apply to a case referred for a hearing?

General Provisions Related to Hearings

1.630 What will OALJ do with a case referral?
1.631 What are the powers of the ALJ?
1.632 What happens if the ALJ becomes unavailable?
1.633 Under what circumstances may the ALJ be disqualified?
1.634 What is the law governing ex parte communications?
1.635 What are the requirements for motions?

Prehearing Conferences and Discovery

1.640 What are the requirements for prehearing conferences?
1.641 How may parties obtain discovery of information needed for the case?
1.642 When must a party supplement or amend information it has previously provided?
1.643 What are the requirements for written interrogatories?
1.644 What are the requirements for depositions?
1.645 What are the requirements for requests for documents or tangible things or entry on land?
1.646 What sanctions may the ALJ impose for failure to comply with discovery?
1.647 What are the requirements for subpoenas and witness fees?

Hearing, Briefing, and Decision

1.650 When and where will the hearing be held?
1.651 What are the parties' rights during the hearing?
1.652 What are the requirements for presenting testimony?
1.653 How may a party use a deposition in the hearing?
1.654 What are the requirements for exhibits, official notice, and stipulations?
1.655 What evidence is admissible at the hearing?
1.656 What are the requirements for transcription of the hearing?
1.657 What is the standard of proof?
1.658 When will the hearing record close?
1.659 What are the requirements for post-hearing briefs?
1.660 What are the requirements for the ALJ's decision?

Alternatives Process

1.670 How must documents be filed and served under §§ 1.670 through 1.673?
1.671 How do I propose an alternative?
1.672 What will the Forest Service do with a proposed alternative?
1.673 How will the Forest Service analyze a proposed alternative and formulate its modified conditions?
1.674 Has OMB approved the information collection provisions of §§ 1.670 through 1.673?

Authority: 16 U.S.C. 797(e), 811, 823d.

General Provisions

§ 1.601 What is the purpose of this subpart, and to what license proceedings does it apply?

(a) *Hearing process.* (1) The regulations in §§ 1.601 through 1.660 contain rules of practice and procedure applicable to hearings on disputed issues of material fact with respect to mandatory conditions that the Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Forest Service) may develop for inclusion in a hydropower license issued under subchapter I of the Federal Power Act (FPA), 16 U.S.C. 791 *et seq.* The authority to develop these conditions is granted by FPA section 4(e), 16 U.S.C. 797(e), which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to condition hydropower licenses issued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

(2) The hearing process under this subpart does not apply to recommendations that the Forest Service may submit to FERC under FPA section 10(a), 16 U.S.C. 803(a).

(3) The FPA also grants the Department of the Interior the authority to develop mandatory conditions and prescriptions, and the Department of Commerce the authority to develop mandatory prescriptions, for inclusion in a hydropower license. Where the Forest Service USDA and either or both of these other Departments develop conditions or prescriptions to be included in the same hydropower license and where the Departments agree to consolidate the hearings under § 1.623:

(i) A hearing conducted under this subpart will also address disputed issues of material fact with respect to any condition or prescription developed by one of the other Departments; or

(ii) A hearing requested under this subpart will be conducted by one of the other Departments, pursuant to 43 CFR 45.1 *et seq.* or 50 CFR 221.1 *et seq.*, as applicable.

(4) The regulations in §§ 1.601 through 1.660 will be construed and applied to each hearing process to achieve a just and speedy determination, consistent with adequate consideration of the issues involved and the provisions of § 1.660(a).

(b) *Alternatives process.* The regulations in §§ 1.670 through 1.673 contain rules of procedure applicable to the submission and consideration of alternative conditions under FPA section 33, 16 U.S.C. 823d. That section allows any party to the license proceeding to propose an alternative to a condition deemed necessary by the Forest Service under section 4(e).

(c) *Reservation of authority.* Where the Forest Service notifies FERC that it is reserving its authority to develop one or more conditions during the term of the license, the hearing and alternatives processes under this subpart for such conditions will be available if and when the Forest Service exercises its reserved authority. The Forest Service will consult with FERC and notify the license parties regarding how to initiate the hearing process and alternatives process at that time.

(d) *Applicability.* (1) This subpart applies to any hydropower license proceeding for which the license has not been issued as of November 17, 2005 and for which one or more preliminary conditions or conditions have been or are filed with FERC.

(2) If the Forest Service has already filed one or more preliminary conditions or conditions as of November 17, 2005, the special applicability provisions of § 1.604 also apply.

§ 1.602 What terms are used in this subpart?

As used in this subpart:

ALJ means an administrative law judge appointed under 5 U.S.C. 3105 and assigned to preside over the hearing process under this subpart.

Alternative means a condition that a license party other than the Forest Service or another Department develops as an alternative to a preliminary condition from the Forest Service or another Department, under FPA sec. 33, 16 U.S.C. 823d.

Condition means a condition under FPA sec. 4(e), 16 U.S.C. 797(e), for the adequate protection and utilization of a reservation.

Day means a calendar day.

Department means the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, or Department of the Interior.

Discovery means a prehearing process for obtaining facts or information to assist a party in preparing or presenting its case.

Ex parte communication means an oral or written communication to the ALJ that is made without providing all parties reasonable notice and an opportunity to participate.

FERC means the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Forest Service means the USDA Forest Service.

FPA means the Federal Power Act, 16 U.S.C. 791 *et seq.*

Hearing Clerk means the Hearing Clerk, USDA, 1400 Independence Ave., SW., Washington, DC 20250; phone: 202–720–4443, facsimile: 202–720–9776.

Intervention means a process by which a person who did not request a

hearing under § 1.621 can participate as a party to the hearing under § 1.622.

License party means a party to the license proceeding, as that term is defined at 18 CFR 385.102(c).

License proceeding means a proceeding before FERC for issuance of a license for a hydroelectric facility under 18 CFR parts 4 or 5.

Material fact means a fact that, if proved, may affect a Department's decision whether to affirm, modify, or withdraw any condition or prescription.

NEPA document means an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement issued to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*

NFS means Deputy Chief, National Forest Systems, Forest Service. The service and mailing address under this subpart is NFS, Washington Office (WO) Lands Staff, Mail Stop 1124, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Washington, DC 20250–0003, telephone 202–205–1248, facsimile number 202–205–1604.

Office of Administrative Law Judges (OALJ) is the office within USDA in which ALJs conduct hearings under the regulations in this subpart.

Party means, with respect to USDA's hearing process:

(1) A license party that has filed a timely request for a hearing under:

(i) Section 1.621; or

(ii) Either 43 CFR 45.21 or 50 CFR 221.21, with respect to a hearing process consolidated under § 1.623;

(2) A license party that has filed a timely notice of intervention and response under:

(i) Section 1.622; or

(ii) Either 43 CFR 45.22 or 50 CFR 221.22, with respect to a hearing process consolidated under § 1.623;

(3) The Forest Service, if it has filed a preliminary condition; and

(4) Any other Department that has filed a preliminary condition or prescription, with respect to a hearing process consolidated under § 1.623.

Person means an individual; a partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity; an unincorporated organization; and any federal, state, tribal, county, district, territorial, or local government or agency.

Preliminary condition or prescription means a preliminary condition or prescription filed by a Department with FERC under 18 CFR 4.34(b), 4.34(i), or 5.22(a) for potential inclusion in a hydropower license.

Prescription means a fishway prescribed under FPA sec. 18, 16 U.S.C. 811, to provide for the safe, timely, and effective passage of fish.

Representative means a person who:

(1) Is authorized by a party to represent the party in a hearing process under this subpart; and

(2) Has filed an appearance under § 1.610.

Reservation has the same meaning as the term "reservations" in FPA sec. 3(2), 16 U.S.C. 796(2).

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture or his or her designee.

Senior Department employee has the same meaning as the term "senior employee" in 5 CFR 2637.211(a).

USDA means the United States Department of Agriculture.

You refers to a party other than a Department.

§ 1.603 How are time periods computed?

(a) *General.* Time periods are computed as follows:

(1) The day of the act or event from which the period begins to run is not included.

(2) The last day of the period is included.

(i) If that day is a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, the period is extended to the next business day.

(ii) The last day of the period ends at 5 p.m. at the place where the filing or other action is due.

(3) If the period is less than 7 days, any Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday that falls within the period is not included.

(b) *Extensions of time.* (1) No extension of time can be granted to file a request for a hearing under § 1.621, a notice of intervention and response under § 1.622, an answer under § 1.624, or any document under §§ 1.670 through 1.673.

(2) An extension of time to file any other document under this subpart may be granted only upon a showing of good cause.

(i) To request an extension of time, a party must file a motion under § 1.635 stating how much additional time is needed and the reasons for the request.

(ii) The party must file the motion before the applicable time period expires, unless the party demonstrates extraordinary circumstances that justify a delay in filing.

(iii) The ALJ may grant the extension only if:

(A) It would not unduly prejudice other parties; and

(B) It would not delay the decision under § 1.660.

§ 1.604 What deadlines apply to pending applications?

(a) *Applicability.* (1) This section applies to any case in which the Forest Service has filed a preliminary condition or condition with FERC before November 17, 2005 and FERC has not issued a license as of that date.

(2) The deadlines in this section will apply in such a case, in lieu of any inconsistent deadline in other sections of this subpart.

(b) *Hearing process.* (1) Any request for a hearing under § 1.621 must be filed with NFS by December 19, 2005.

(2) Any notice of intervention and response under § 1.622 must be filed by January 3, 2006.

(3) Upon receipt of a hearing request under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the Forest Service must do the following by March 17, 2006:

(i) Comply with the requirements of § 1.623;

(ii) Determine jointly with any other Department that has received a hearing request, after consultation with FERC, a time frame for the hearing process and a corresponding deadline for the Forest Service to file an answer under § 1.624; and

(iii) Issue a notice to each party specifying the time frame for the hearing process, including the deadline for the Forest Service to file an answer.

(c) *Alternatives process.* (1) Any alternative under § 1.671 must be filed with NFS by December 19, 2005.

(2) Upon receipt of an alternative under paragraph (c)(1) of this section, if no hearing request is filed under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the Forest Service must do the following by February 15, 2006:

(i) Determine jointly with any other Department that has received a related alternative, after consultation with FERC, a time frame for the filing of a modified condition under § 1.672(b); and

(ii) Issue a notice to the license party that has submitted the alternative, specifying the time frame for the filing of a modified condition.

(3) Upon receipt of an alternative under paragraph (c)(1) of this section, if a hearing request is also filed under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the Forest Service will follow the provisions of paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

Hearing Process

Representatives

§ 1.610 Who may represent a party, and what requirements apply to a representative?

(a) *Individuals.* A party who is an individual may either represent himself or herself in the hearing process under this subpart or authorize an attorney to represent him or her.

(b) *Organizations.* A party that is an organization or other entity may

authorize one of the following to represent it:

(1) An attorney;

(2) A partner, if the entity is a partnership;

(3) An officer or full-time employee, if the entity is a corporation, association, or unincorporated organization;

(4) A receiver, administrator, executor, or similar fiduciary, if the entity is a receivership, trust, or estate; or

(5) An elected or appointed official or an employee, if the entity is a federal, state, tribal, county, district, territorial, or local government or component.

(c) *Appearance.* A representative must file a notice of appearance. The notice must:

(1) Meet the form and content requirements for documents under § 1.611;

(2) Include the name and address of the person on whose behalf the appearance is made;

(3) If the representative is an attorney, include a statement that he or she is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of a state, the District of Columbia, or any territory or commonwealth of the United States (identifying which one); and

(4) If the representative is not an attorney, include a statement explaining his or her authority to represent the entity.

(d) *Disqualification.* The ALJ may disqualify any representative for misconduct or other good cause.

Document Filing and Service

§ 1.611 What are the form and content requirements for documents under §§ 1.610 through 1.660?

(a) *Form.* Each document filed in a case under §§ 1.610 through 1.660 must:

(1) Measure 8½ by 11 inches, except that a table, chart, diagram, or other attachment may be larger if folded to 8½ by 11 inches and attached to the document;

(2) Be printed on just one side of the page;

(3) Be clearly typewritten, printed, or otherwise reproduced by a process that yields legible and permanent copies;

(4) Use 10 point font size or larger;

(5) Be double-spaced except for footnotes and long quotations, which may be single-spaced;

(6) Have margins of at least 1 inch; and

(7) Be bound on the left side, if bound.

(b) *Caption.* Each document filed under §§ 1.610 through 1.660 must begin with a caption that sets forth:

(1) The name of the case under §§ 1.610 through 1.660 and the docket number, if one has been assigned;

(2) The name and docket number of the license proceeding to which the case under §§ 1.610 through 1.660 relates; and

(3) A descriptive title for the document, indicating the party for whom it is filed and the nature of the document.

(c) *Signature.* The original of each document filed under §§ 1.610 through 1.660 must be signed by the representative of the person for whom the document is filed. The signature constitutes a certification by the representative that he or she has read the document; that to the best of his or her knowledge, information, and belief, the statements made in the document are true; and that the document is not being filed for the purpose of causing delay.

(d) *Contact information.* Below the representative's signature, the document must provide the representative's name, mailing address, street address (if different), telephone number, facsimile number (if any), and electronic mail address (if any).

§ 1.612 Where and how must documents be filed?

(a) *Place of filing.* Any documents relating to a case under §§ 1.610 through 1.660 must be filed with the appropriate office, as follows:

(1) Before NFS refers a case for docketing under § 1.625, any documents must be filed with NFS. NFS's address, telephone number, and facsimile number are set forth in § 1.602.

(2) NFS will notify the parties of the date on which it refers a case for docketing under § 1.625. After that date, any documents must be filed with:

(i) The Hearing Clerk, if USDA will be conducting the hearing. The Hearing Clerk's address, telephone number, and facsimile number are set forth in § 1.602; or

(ii) The hearings component of or used by another Department, if that Department will be conducting the hearing under § 1.625. The name, address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the appropriate hearings component will be provided in the referral notice from the Forest Service.

(b) *Method of filing.* (1) A document must be filed with the appropriate office under paragraph (a) of this section using one of the following methods:

(i) By hand delivery of the original document;

(ii) By sending the original document by express mail or courier service for delivery on the next business day; or

(iii) By sending the document by facsimile if:

(A) The document is 20 pages or less, including all attachments;

(B) The sending facsimile machine confirms that the transmission was successful; and

(C) The original of the document is sent by regular mail on the same day.

(2) Parties are encouraged, but not required, to supplement any filing by providing the appropriate office with an electronic copy of the document on diskette or compact disc.

(c) *Date of filing.* A document under §§ 1.610 through 1.660 is considered filed on the date it is received. However, any document received after 5 p.m. at the place where the filing is due is considered filed on the next regular business day.

(d) *Nonconforming documents.* If any document submitted for filing under §§ 1.610 through 1.660 does not comply with the requirements of §§ 1.610 through 1.660 or any applicable order, it may be rejected. If the defect is minor, the party may be notified of the defect and given a chance to correct it.

§ 1.613 What are the requirements for service of documents?

(a) *Filed documents.* Any document related to a case under §§ 1.610 through 1.660 must be served at the same time the document is delivered or sent for filing. Copies must be served as follows:

(1) A complete copy of any request for a hearing under § 1.621 must be served on FERC and each license party, using one of the methods of service in paragraph (c) of this section.

(2) A complete copy of any notice of intervention and response under § 1.622 must be:

(i) Served on FERC, the license applicant, any person who has filed a request for hearing under § 1.621, and the Forest Service, using one of the methods of service in paragraph (c) of this section; and

(ii) Sent to any other license party using regular mail.

(3) A complete copy of any other filed document must be served on each party, using one of the methods of service in paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) *Documents issued by the Hearing Clerk or ALJ.* A complete copy of any notice, order, decision, or other document issued by the Hearing Clerk or the ALJ under §§ 1.610 through 1.660 must be served on each party, using one of the methods of service in paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Method of service.* Service must be accomplished by one of the following methods:

(1) By hand delivery of the document;

(2) By sending the document by express mail or courier service for delivery on the next business day;

(3) By sending the document by facsimile if:

(i) The document is 20 pages or less, including all attachments;

(ii) The sending facsimile machine confirms that the transmission was successful; and

(iii) The document is sent by regular mail on the same day; or

(4) By sending the document, including all attachments, by electronic mail if:

(i) A copy of the document is sent by regular mail on the same day; and

(ii) The party acknowledges receipt of the document by close of the next business day.

(d) *Acknowledgment of service.* Any party who receives a document under §§ 1.610 through 1.660 by electronic mail must promptly send a reply electronic mail message acknowledging receipt.

(e) *Certificate of service.* A certificate of service must be attached to each document filed under §§ 1.610 through 1.660. The certificate must be signed by the party's representative and include the following information:

(1) The name, address, and other contact information of each party's representative on whom the document was served;

(2) The means of service, including information indicating compliance with paragraph (c)(3) or (c)(4) of this section, if applicable; and

(3) The date of service.

Initiation of Hearing Process

§ 1.620 What supporting information must the Forest Service provide with its preliminary conditions?

(a) *Supporting information.* (1) When the Forest Service files preliminary conditions with FERC, it must include a rationale for the conditions and an index to the Forest Service's administrative record that identifies all documents relied upon.

(2) If any of the documents relied upon are not already in the license proceeding record, the Forest Service must:

(i) File them with FERC at the time it files the preliminary conditions; and

(ii) Provide paper or electronic copies to the license applicant.

(b) *Service.* In addition to serving a copy of its preliminary conditions on each license party, the Forest Service must provide a copy to the Hearing Clerk if and when a request for a hearing is filed with respect to the preliminary conditions.

§ 1.621 How do I request a hearing?

(a) *General.* To request a hearing on disputed issues of material fact with respect to any condition filed by the Forest Service, you must:

(1) Be a license party; and

(2) File with NFS a written request for a hearing within 30 days after the deadline for the Departments to file preliminary conditions with FERC.

(b) *Content.* Your hearing request must contain:

(1) A numbered list of the factual issues that you allege are in dispute, each stated in a single, concise sentence; and

(2) The following information with respect to each issue:

(i) The specific factual statements made or relied upon by the Forest Service under § 1.620(a) that you dispute;

(ii) The basis for your opinion that those factual statements are unfounded or erroneous;

(iii) The basis for your opinion that any factual dispute is material; and

(iv) With respect to any scientific studies, literature, and other documented information supporting your opinions under paragraphs (b)(2)(ii) and (b)(2)(iii) of this section, specific citations to the information relied upon. If any such document is not already in the license proceeding record, you must provide a copy with the request.

(c) *Witnesses and exhibits.* Your hearing request must also list the witnesses and exhibits that you intend to present at the hearing, other than solely for impeachment purposes.

(1) For each witness listed, you must provide:

(i) His or her name, address, telephone number, and qualifications; and

(ii) A brief narrative summary of his or her expected testimony.

(2) For each exhibit listed, you must specify whether it is in the license proceeding record.

(d) *Page limits.* (1) For each disputed factual issue, the information provided under paragraph (b)(2) of this section may not exceed two pages.

(2) For each witness, the information provided under paragraph (c)(1) of this section may not exceed one page.

§ 1.622 How do I file a notice of intervention and response?

(a) *General.* (1) To intervene as a party to the hearing process, you must:

(i) Be a license party; and

(ii) File with NFS a notice of intervention and a written response to any request for a hearing within 15 days after the date of service of the request for a hearing.

(2) A license party filing a notice of intervention and response may not raise issues of material fact beyond those raised in the hearing request.

(b) *Content.* In your notice of intervention and response you must explain your position with respect to the issues of material fact raised in the hearing request under § 1.621(b).

(1) If you agree with the information provided by the Forest Service under § 1.620(a) or by the requester under § 1.621(b), your response may refer to the Forest Service's explanation or the requester's hearing request for support.

(2) If you wish to rely on additional information or analysis, your response must provide the same level of detail with respect to the additional information or analysis as required under § 1.621(b).

(c) *Witnesses and exhibits.* Your response and notice must also list the witnesses and exhibits that you intend to present at the hearing, other than solely for impeachment purposes.

(1) For each witness listed, you must provide:

(i) His or her name, address, telephone number, and qualifications; and

(ii) A brief narrative summary of his or her expected testimony; and

(2) For each exhibit listed, you must specify whether it is in the license proceeding record.

(d) *Page limits.* (1) For each disputed factual issue, the information provided under paragraph (b) of this section may not exceed two pages.

(2) For each witness, the information provided under paragraph (c)(1) of this section may not exceed one page.

§ 1.623 When will hearing requests be consolidated?

(a) *Initial Department coordination.* If the Forest Service has received a copy of a hearing request, it must contact the other Departments within 10 days after the deadline for filing hearing requests under § 1.621 and determine:

(1) Whether any of the other Departments has also filed a preliminary condition or prescription relating to the license with FERC; and

(2) If so, whether the other Department has also received a hearing request with respect to the preliminary condition or prescription.

(b) *Decision on consolidation.* Within 25 days after the deadline for filing hearing requests under § 1.621, if the Forest Service has received a hearing request, it must:

(1) Consult with any other Department that has also received a hearing request; and

(2) Decide jointly with the other Department:

(i) Whether to consolidate the cases for hearing under paragraphs (c)(3)(ii) through (c)(3)(iv) of this section; and

(ii) If so, which Department will conduct the hearing on their behalf.

(c) *Criteria.* Cases will or may be consolidated as follows:

(1) All hearing requests with respect to any conditions from the same Department will be consolidated for hearing.

(2) All hearing requests with respect to any prescriptions from the same Department will be consolidated for hearing.

(3) Any or all of the following may be consolidated for hearing, if the Departments involved determine that there are common issues of material fact or that consolidation is otherwise appropriate:

(i) Two or more hearing requests with respect to any condition and any prescription from the same Department;

(ii) Two or more hearing requests with respect to conditions from different Departments;

(iii) Two or more hearing requests with respect to prescriptions from different Departments; or

(iv) Two or more hearing requests with respect to any condition from one Department and any prescription from another Department.

§ 1.624 How will the Forest Service respond to any hearing requests?

(a) *General.* Within 45 days after the deadline in § 1.621(a)(2), the Forest Service may file with the Hearing Clerk an answer to any hearing request under § 1.621.

(b) *Content.* If the Forest Service files an answer:

(1) For each of the numbered factual issues listed under § 1.621(b)(1), the answer must explain the Forest Service's position with respect to the issues of material fact raised by the requester, including one or more of the following statements as appropriate:

(i) That the Forest Service is willing to stipulate to the facts as alleged by the requester;

(ii) That the Forest Service believes the issue listed by the requester is not a factual issue, explaining the basis for such belief;

(iii) That the Forest Service believes the issue listed by the requester is not material, explaining the basis for such belief; or

(iv) That the Forest Service agrees that the issue is factual, material, and in dispute.

(2) The answer must also indicate whether the hearing request will be consolidated with one or more other hearing requests under § 1.623 and, if so:

(i) Identify any other hearing request that will be consolidated with this hearing request; and

(ii) State which Department will conduct the hearing and provide contact information for the appropriate Department hearings component.

(c) *Witnesses and exhibits.* The Forest Service's answer must also list the witnesses and exhibits that it intends to present at the hearing, other than solely for impeachment purposes.

(1) For each witness listed, the Forest Service must provide:

(i) His or her name, address, telephone number, and qualifications; and

(ii) A brief narrative summary of his or her expected testimony.

(2) For each exhibit listed, the Forest Service must specify whether it is in the license proceeding record

(d) *Page limits.* (1) For each disputed factual issue, the information provided under paragraph (b)(1) of this section may not exceed two pages.

(2) For each witness, the information provided under paragraph (c)(1) of this section may not exceed one page.

(e) *Notice in lieu of answer.* If the Forest Service elects not to file an answer to a hearing request:

(1) The Forest Service is deemed to agree that the issues listed by the requester are factual, material, and in dispute;

(2) The Forest Service may file a list of witnesses and exhibits with respect to the request only as provided in § 1.642(b); and

(3) The Forest Service must file a notice containing the information required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section, if the hearing request will be consolidated with one or more other hearing requests under § 1.623.

§ 1.625 What will the Forest Service do with any hearing requests?

(a) *Case referral.* Within 5 days after receipt of the Forest Service's answer, NFS will refer the case for a hearing as follows:

(1) If the hearing is to be conducted by USDA, NFS will refer the case to the OALJ.

(2) If the hearing is to be conducted by another Department, NFS will refer the case to the hearings component used by that Department.

(b) *Content.* The case referral will consist of the following:

(1) A copy of any preliminary condition under § 1.620;

(2) The original of any hearing request under § 1.621;

(3) The original of any notice of intervention and response under § 1.622;

(4) The original of any answer under § 1.624; and

(5) An original referral notice under paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Notice.* At the time NFS refers the case for a hearing, it must provide a referral notice that contains the following information:

(1) The name, address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the Department hearings component that will conduct the hearing;

(2) The name, address, and other contact information for the representative of each party to the hearing process;

(3) An identification of any other hearing request that will be consolidated with this hearing request; and

(4) The date on which NFS is referring the case for docketing.

(d) *Delivery and service.* (1) NFS must refer the case to the appropriate Department hearings component by one of the methods identified in § 1.612(b)(1)(i) and (b)(1)(ii).

(2) NFS must serve a copy of the referral notice on FERC and each party to the hearing by one of the methods identified in § 1.613(c)(1) and (c)(2).

§ 1.626 What regulations apply to a case referred for a hearing?

(a) If NFS refers the case to OALJ, these regulations will continue to apply to the hearing process.

(b) If NFS refers the case to the Department of the Interior's Office of Hearing and Appeals, the regulations at 43 CFR 45.1 *et seq.* will apply from that point.

(c) If NFS refers the case to the Department of Commerce's designated ALJ office, the regulations at 50 CFR 221.1 *et seq.* will apply from that point.

General Provisions Related to Hearings

§ 1.630 What will OALJ do with a case referral?

Within 5 days after issuance of the referral notice under § 1.625(c), 43 CFR 45.25(c), or 50 CFR 221.25(c):

(a) The Hearing Clerk must:

(1) Docket the case;

(2) Assign an ALJ to preside over the hearing process and issue a decision; and

(3) Issue a docketing notice that informs the parties of the docket number and the ALJ assigned to the case; and

(b) The ALJ must issue a notice setting the time, place, and method for conducting an initial prehearing conference under § 1.640. This notice may be combined with the docketing notice under paragraph (a)(3) of this section.

§ 1.631 What are the powers of the ALJ?

The ALJ will have all powers necessary to conduct a fair, orderly, expeditious, and impartial hearing process, consistent with the requirements of § 1.660(a), including the powers to:

(a) Administer oaths and affirmations;

(b) Issue subpoenas to the extent authorized by law;

(c) Rule on motions;

(d) Authorize discovery as provided for in §§ 1.641 through 1.647;

(e) Hold hearings and conferences;

(f) Regulate the course of hearings;

(g) Call and question witnesses;

(h) Exclude any person from a hearing or conference for misconduct or other good cause;

(i) Issue a decision consistent with § 1.660(b) regarding any disputed issues of material fact relating to the Forest Service's or other Department's condition or prescription that has been referred to the ALJ for hearing; and

(j) Take any other action authorized by law.

§ 1.632 What happens if the ALJ becomes unavailable?

(a) If the ALJ becomes unavailable or otherwise unable to perform the duties described in § 1.631, the OALJ shall designate a successor.

(b) If a hearing has commenced and the ALJ cannot proceed with it, a successor ALJ may do so. At the request of a party, the successor ALJ may recall any witness whose testimony is material and disputed, and who is available to testify again without undue burden. The successor ALJ may, within his or her discretion, recall any other witness.

§ 1.633 Under what circumstances may the ALJ be disqualified?

(a) The ALJ may withdraw from a case at any time the ALJ deems himself or herself disqualified.

(b) At any time before issuance of the ALJ's decision, any party may move that the ALJ disqualify himself or herself for personal bias or other valid cause.

(1) The party must file the motion promptly after discovering facts or other reasons allegedly constituting cause for disqualification.

(2) The party must file with the motion an affidavit or declaration setting forth the facts or other reasons in detail.

(c) The ALJ must rule upon the motion, stating the grounds for the ruling.

(1) If the ALJ concludes that the motion is timely and meritorious, he or she must disqualify himself or herself and withdraw from the case.

(2) If the ALJ does not disqualify himself or herself and withdraw from the case, the ALJ must continue with the hearing process and issue a decision.

§ 1.634 What is the law governing ex parte communications?

(a) Ex parte communications with the ALJ or his or her staff are prohibited in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 554(d).

(b) This section does not prohibit ex parte inquiries concerning case status or procedural requirements, unless the inquiry involves an area of controversy in the hearing process.

§ 1.635 What are the requirements for motions?

(a) *General.* Any party may apply for an order or ruling on any matter related to the hearing process by presenting a motion to the ALJ. A motion may be presented any time after the Hearing Clerk issues a docketing notice under § 1.630.

(1) A motion made at a hearing may be stated orally on the record, unless the ALJ directs that it be reduced to writing.

(2) Any other motion must:

(i) Be in writing;

(ii) Comply with the requirements of §§ 1.610 through 1.613 with respect to form, content, filing, and service; and

(iii) Not exceed 10 pages.

(b) *Content.* (1) Each motion must state clearly and concisely:

(i) Its purpose and the relief sought;

(ii) The facts constituting the grounds for the relief sought; and

(iii) Any applicable statutory or regulatory authority.

(2) A proposed order must accompany the motion.

(c) *Response.* Except as otherwise required by this subpart or by order of the ALJ, any other party may file a response to a written motion within 10 days after service of the motion. When a party presents a motion at a hearing, any other party may present a response orally on the record.

(d) *Reply.* Unless the ALJ orders otherwise, no reply to a response may be filed.

(e) *Effect of filing.* Unless the ALJ orders otherwise, the filing of a motion does not stay the hearing process.

(f) *Ruling.* The ALJ will rule on the motion as soon as practicable, either orally on the record or in writing. He or she may summarily deny any dilatory, repetitive, or frivolous motion.

Prehearing Conferences and Discovery

§ 1.640 What are the requirements for prehearing conferences?

(a) *Initial prehearing conference.* The ALJ will conduct an initial prehearing conference with the parties at the time specified in the docketing notice under § 1.630, on or about the 20th day after issuance of the referral notice under § 1.625(c).

(1) The initial prehearing conference will be used:

(i) To identify, narrow, and clarify the disputed issues of material fact and exclude issues that do not qualify for review as factual, material, and disputed;

(ii) To consider the parties' motions for discovery under § 1.641 and to set a deadline for the completion of discovery;

(iii) To discuss the evidence on which each party intends to rely at the hearing;

(iv) To set the deadline for submission of written testimony under § 1.652; and

(v) To set the date, time, and place of the hearing.

(2) The initial prehearing conference may also be used:

(i) To discuss limiting and grouping witnesses to avoid duplication;

(ii) To discuss stipulations of fact and of the content and authenticity of documents;

(iii) To consider requests that the ALJ take official notice of public records or other matters;

(iv) To discuss the submission of written testimony, briefs, or other documents in electronic form; and

(v) To consider any other matters that may aid in the disposition of the case.

(b) *Other conferences.* The ALJ may in his or her discretion direct the parties to attend one or more other prehearing conferences, if consistent with the need to complete the hearing process within 90 days. Any party may by motion request a conference.

(c) *Notice.* The ALJ must give the parties reasonable notice of the time and place of any conference. A conference will ordinarily be held by telephone, unless the ALJ orders otherwise.

(d) *Preparation.* (1) Each party's representative must be fully prepared for a discussion of all issues properly before the conference, both procedural and substantive. The representative must be authorized to commit the party that he or she represents respecting those issues.

(2) Before the date set for the initial prehearing conference, the parties' representatives must make a good faith effort:

(i) To meet in person, by telephone, or by other appropriate means; and

(ii) To reach agreement on discovery and the schedule of remaining steps in the hearing process.

(e) *Failure to attend.* Unless the ALJ orders otherwise, a party that fails to attend or participate in a conference, after being served with reasonable notice of its time and place, waives all objections to any agreements reached in

the conference and to any consequent orders or rulings.

(f) *Scope.* During a conference, the ALJ may dispose of any procedural matters related to the case.

(g) *Order.* Within 2 days after the conclusion of each conference, the ALJ must issue an order that recites any agreements reached at the conference and any rulings made by the ALJ during or as a result of the conference.

§ 1.641 How may parties obtain discovery of information needed for the case?

(a) *General.* By agreement of the parties or with the permission of the ALJ, a party may obtain discovery of information to assist the party in preparing or presenting its case. Available methods of discovery are:

(1) Written interrogatories;

(2) Depositions as provided in paragraph (h) of this section; and

(3) Requests for production of designated documents or tangible things or for entry on designated land for inspection or other purposes.

(b) *Criteria.* Discovery may occur only as agreed to by the parties or as authorized by the ALJ in a written order or during a prehearing conference. The ALJ may authorize discovery only if the party requesting discovery demonstrates:

(1) That the discovery will not unreasonably delay the hearing process;

(2) That the information sought:

(i) Will be admissible at the hearing or appears reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence;

(ii) Is not already in the license proceeding record or otherwise obtainable by the party;

(iii) Is not cumulative or repetitious; and

(iv) Is not privileged or protected from disclosure by applicable law;

(3) That the scope of the discovery is not unduly burdensome;

(4) That the method to be used is the least burdensome method available;

(5) That any trade secrets or proprietary information can be adequately safeguarded; and

(6) That the standards for discovery under paragraphs (f) through (h) of this section have been met, if applicable.

(c) *Motions.* A party may initiate discovery:

(1) Pursuant to an agreement of the parties; or

(2) By filing a motion that:

(i) Briefly describes the proposed method(s), purpose, and scope of the discovery;

(ii) Explains how the discovery meets the criteria in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(6) of this section; and

(iii) Attaches a copy of any proposed discovery request (written interrogatories, notice of deposition, or request for production of designated documents or tangible things or for entry on designated land).

(d) *Timing of motions.* A party must file any discovery motion under paragraph (c)(2) of this section within 7 days after issuance of the referral notice under § 1.625(c).

(e) *Objections.* (1) A party must file any objections to a discovery motion or to specific portions of a proposed discovery request within 7 days after service of the motion.

(2) An objection must explain how, in the objecting party's view, the discovery sought does not meet the criteria in paragraphs (b)(1) through (b)(6) of this section.

(f) *Materials prepared for hearing.* A party generally may not obtain discovery of documents and tangible things otherwise discoverable under paragraph (b) of this section if they were prepared in anticipation of or for the hearing by or for another party's representative (including the party's attorney, expert, or consultant).

(1) If a party wants to discover such materials, it must show:

(i) That it has substantial need of the materials in preparing its own case; and

(ii) That the party is unable without undue hardship to obtain the substantial equivalent of the materials by other means.

(2) In ordering discovery of such materials when the required showing has been made, the ALJ must protect against disclosure of the mental impressions, conclusions, opinions, or legal theories of an attorney.

(g) *Experts.* Unless restricted by the ALJ, a party may discover any facts known or opinions held by an expert concerning any relevant matters that are not privileged. Such discovery will be permitted only if:

(1) The expert is expected to be a witness at the hearing; or

(2) The expert is relied on by another expert who is expected to be a witness at the hearing, and the party shows:

(i) That it has a compelling need for the information; and

(ii) That it cannot practicably obtain the information by other means.

(h) *Limitations on depositions.* (1) A party may depose a witness only if the party shows that the witness:

(i) Will be unable to attend the hearing because of age, illness, or other incapacity; or

(ii) Is unwilling to attend the hearing voluntarily, and the party is unable to compel the witness's attendance at the hearing by subpoena.

(2) Paragraph (h)(1)(ii) of this section does not apply to any person employed by or under contract with the party seeking the deposition.

(3) A party may depose a senior Department employee only if the party shows:

(i) That the employee's testimony is necessary in order to provide significant, unprivileged information that is not available from any other source or by less burdensome means; and

(ii) That the deposition would not significantly interfere with the employee's ability to perform his or her government duties.

(i) *Completion of discovery.* All discovery must be completed within 25 days after the initial prehearing conference, unless the ALJ sets a different deadline.

§ 1.642 When must a party supplement or amend information it has previously provided?

(a) *Discovery.* A party must promptly supplement or amend any prior response to a discovery request if it learns that the response:

(1) Was incomplete or incorrect when made; or

(2) Though complete and correct when made, is now incomplete or incorrect in any material respect.

(b) *Witnesses and exhibits.* (1) Within 5 days after the date set for completion of discovery, each party must file an updated version of the list of witnesses and exhibits required under §§ 1.621(c), 1.622(c), or 1.624(c).

(2) If a party wishes to include any new witness or exhibit on its updated list, it must provide an explanation of why it was not feasible for the party to include the witness or exhibit on its list under §§ 1.621(c), 1.622(c), or 1.624(c).

(c) *Failure to disclose.* (1) A party that fails to disclose information required under §§ 1.621(c), 1.622(c), or 1.624(c), or paragraphs (a) or (b) of this section, will not be permitted to introduce as evidence at the hearing testimony from a witness or other information that it failed to disclose.

(2) Paragraph (c)(1) of this section does not apply if the failure to disclose was substantially justified or is harmless.

(3) Before or during the hearing, a party may object to the admission of evidence under paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(4) The ALJ will consider the following in determining whether to exclude evidence under paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(3) of this section:

(i) The prejudice to the objecting party;

(ii) The ability of the objecting party to cure any prejudice;

(iii) The extent to which presentation of the evidence would disrupt the orderly and efficient hearing of the case;

(iv) The importance of the evidence; and

(v) The reason for the failure to disclose, including any bad faith or willfulness regarding the failure.

§ 1.643 What are the requirements for written interrogatories?

(a) *Motion.* Except upon agreement of the parties, a party wishing to propound interrogatories must file a motion under § 1.641(c).

(b) *ALJ order.* During or promptly after the initial prehearing conference, the ALJ will issue an order under § 1.641(b) with respect to any discovery motion requesting the use of written interrogatories. The order will:

(1) Grant the motion and approve the use of some or all of the proposed interrogatories; or

(2) Deny the motion.

(c) *Answers to interrogatories.* Except upon agreement of the parties, the party to whom the proposed interrogatories are directed must file its answers to any interrogatories approved by the ALJ within 15 days after issuance of the order under paragraph (b) of this section.

(1) Each approved interrogatory must be answered separately and fully in writing.

(2) The party or its representative must sign the answers to interrogatories under oath or affirmation.

(d) *Access to records.* A party's answer to an interrogatory is sufficient when:

(1) The information may be obtained from an examination of records, or from a compilation, abstract, or summary based on such records;

(2) The burden of obtaining the information from the records is substantially the same for all parties;

(3) The answering party specifically identifies the individual records from which the requesting party may obtain the information and where the records are located; and

(4) The answering party provides the requesting party with reasonable opportunity to examine the records and make a copy, compilation, abstract, or summary.

§ 1.644 What are the requirements for depositions?

(a) *Motion and notice.* Except upon agreement of the parties, a party wishing to take a deposition must file a motion under § 1.641(c). Any notice of deposition filed with the motion must state:

(1) The time and place that the deposition is to be taken;

(2) The name and address of the person before whom the deposition is to be taken;

(3) The name and address of the witness whose deposition is to be taken; and

(4) Any documents or materials that the witness is to produce.

(b) *ALJ order.* During or promptly after the initial prehearing conference, the ALJ will issue an order under § 1.641(b) with respect to any discovery motion requesting the taking of a deposition. The order will:

(1) Grant the motion and approve the taking of the deposition, subject to any conditions or restrictions the ALJ may impose; or

(2) Deny the motion.

(c) *Arrangements.* If the parties agree to or the ALJ approves the taking of the deposition, the party requesting the deposition must make appropriate arrangements for necessary facilities and personnel.

(1) The deposition will be taken at the time and place agreed to by the parties or indicated in the ALJ's order.

(2) The deposition may be taken before any disinterested person authorized to administer oaths in the place where the deposition is to be taken.

(3) Any party that objects to the taking of a deposition because of the disqualification of the person before whom it is to be taken must do so:

(i) Before the deposition begins; or

(ii) As soon as the disqualification becomes known or could have been discovered with reasonable diligence.

(4) A deposition may be taken by telephone conference call, if agreed to by the parties or approved in the ALJ's order.

(d) *Testimony.* Each witness deposed must be placed under oath or affirmation, and the other parties must be given an opportunity for cross-examination.

(e) *Representation of witness.* The witness being deposed may have counsel or another representative present during the deposition.

(f) *Recording and transcript.* Except as provided in paragraph (g) of this section, the deposition must be stenographically recorded and transcribed at the expense of the party that requested the deposition.

(1) Any other party may obtain a copy of the transcript at its own expense.

(2) Unless waived by the deponent, the deponent will have 3 days after receiving the transcript to read and sign it.

(3) The person before whom the deposition was taken must certify the transcript following receipt of the signed transcript from the deponent or expiration of the 3-day review period, whichever occurs first.

(g) *Video recording.* The testimony at a deposition may be recorded on videotape, subject to any conditions or restrictions that the parties may agree to or the ALJ may impose, at the expense of the party requesting the recording.

(1) The video recording may be in conjunction with an oral examination by telephone conference held under paragraph (c)(3) of this section.

(2) After the deposition has been taken, the person recording the deposition must:

(i) Provide a copy of the videotape to any party that requests it, at the requesting party's expense; and

(ii) Attach to the videotape a statement identifying the case and the deponent and certifying the authenticity of the video recording.

(h) *Use of deposition.* A deposition may be used at the hearing as provided in § 1.653.

§ 1.645 What are the requirements for requests for documents or tangible things or entry on land?

(a) *Motion.* Except upon agreement of the parties, a party wishing to request the production of designated documents or tangible things or entry on designated land must file a motion under § 1.641(c). A request may include any of the following that are in the possession, custody, or control of another party:

(1) The production of designated documents for inspection and copying, other than documents that are already in the license proceeding record;

(2) The production of designated tangible things for inspection, copying, testing, or sampling; or

(3) Entry on designated land or other property for inspection and measuring, surveying, photographing, testing, or sampling either the property or any designated object or operation on the property.

(b) *ALJ order.* During or promptly after the initial prehearing conference, the ALJ will issue an order under § 1.641(b) with respect to any discovery motion requesting the production of documents or tangible things or entry on land for inspection, copying, or other purposes. The order will:

(1) Grant the motion and approve the use of some or all of the proposed requests; or

(2) Deny the motion.

(c) *Compliance with order.* Except upon agreement of the parties, the party to whom any approved request for production is directed must permit the approved inspection and other activities within 15 days after issuance of the

order under paragraph (a) of this section.

§ 1.646 What sanctions may the ALJ impose for failure to comply with discovery?

(a) Upon motion of a party, the ALJ may impose sanctions under paragraph (b) of this section if any party:

(1) Fails to comply with an order approving discovery; or

(2) Fails to supplement or amend a response to discovery under § 1.642(a).

(b) The ALJ may impose one or more of the following sanctions:

(1) Infer that the information, testimony, document, or other evidence withheld would have been adverse to the party;

(2) Order that, for the purposes of the hearing, designated facts are established;

(3) Order that the party not introduce into evidence, or otherwise rely on to support its case, any information, testimony, document, or other evidence:

(i) That the party improperly withheld; or

(ii) That the party obtained from another party in discovery;

(4) Allow another party to use secondary evidence to show what the information, testimony, document, or other evidence withheld would have shown; or

(5) Take other appropriate action to remedy the party's failure to comply.

§ 1.647 What are the requirements for subpoenas and witness fees?

(a) *Request for subpoena.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, any party may file a motion requesting the ALJ to issue a subpoena to the extent authorized by law for the attendance of a person, the giving of testimony, or the production of documents or other relevant evidence during discovery or for the hearing.

(2) A party may subpoena a senior Department employee only if the party shows:

(i) That the employee's testimony is necessary in order to provide significant, unprivileged information that is not available from any other source or by less burdensome means; and

(ii) That the employee's attendance would not significantly interfere with the ability to perform his or her government duties.

(b) *Service.* (1) A subpoena may be served by any person who is not a party and is 18 years of age or older.

(2) Service must be made by hand delivering a copy of the subpoena to the person named therein.

(3) The person serving the subpoena must:

(i) Prepare a certificate of service setting forth:

(A) The date, time, and manner of service; or

(B) The reason for any failure of service; and

(ii) Swear to or affirm the certificate, attach it to a copy of the subpoena, and return it to the party on whose behalf the subpoena was served.

(c) *Witness fees.* (1) A party who subpoenas a witness who is not a party must pay him or her the same fees and mileage expenses that are paid witnesses in the district courts of the United States.

(2) A witness who is not a party and who attends a deposition or hearing at the request of any party without having been subpoenaed to do so is entitled to the same fees and mileage expenses as if he or she had been subpoenaed. However, this paragraph does not apply to federal employees who are called as witnesses by the Forest Service or another Department.

(d) *Motion to quash.* (1) A person to whom a subpoena is directed may request by motion that the ALJ quash or modify the subpoena.

(2) The motion must be filed:

(i) Within 5 days after service of the subpoena; or

(ii) At or before the time specified in the subpoena for compliance, if that is less than 5 days after service of the subpoena.

(3) The ALJ may quash or modify the subpoena if it:

(i) Is unreasonable;

(ii) Requires evidence during discovery that is not discoverable; or

(iii) Requires evidence during a hearing that is privileged or irrelevant.

(e) *Enforcement.* For good cause shown, the ALJ may apply to the appropriate United States District Court for the issuance of an order compelling the appearance and testimony of a witness or the production of evidence as set forth in a subpoena that has been duly issued and served.

Hearing, Briefing, and Decision

§ 1.650 When and where will the hearing be held?

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, the hearing will be held at the time and place set at the initial prehearing conference under § 1.640, generally within 15 days after the date set for completion of discovery.

(b) On motion by a party or on the ALJ's initiative, the ALJ may change the date, time, or place of the hearing if he or she finds:

(1) That there is good cause for the change; and

(2) That the change will not unduly prejudice the parties and witnesses.

§ 1.651 What are the parties' rights during the hearing?

Consistent with the provisions of this subpart, each party has the following rights during the hearing, as necessary to assure full and accurate disclosure of the facts:

(a) To present direct and rebuttal evidence;

(b) To make objections, motions, and arguments; and

(c) To cross-examine witnesses and to conduct re-direct and re-cross examination as permitted by the ALJ.

§ 1.652 What are the requirements for presenting testimony?

(a) *Written direct testimony.* Unless otherwise ordered by the ALJ, all direct hearing testimony must be prepared and submitted in written form.

(1) Prepared written testimony must:

(i) Have line numbers inserted in the left-hand margin of each page;

(ii) Be authenticated by an affidavit or declaration of the witness;

(iii) Be filed within 5 days after the date set for completion of discovery, unless the ALJ sets a different deadline; and

(iv) Be offered as an exhibit during the hearing.

(2) Any witness submitting written testimony must be available for cross-examination at the hearing.

(b) *Oral testimony.* Oral examination of a witness in a hearing, including on cross-examination or redirect, must be conducted under oath and in the presence of the ALJ, with an opportunity for all parties to question the witness.

(c) *Telephonic testimony.* The ALJ may by order allow a witness to testify by telephonic conference call.

(1) The arrangements for the call must let each party listen to and speak to the witness and each other within the hearing of the ALJ.

(2) The ALJ will ensure the full identification of each speaker so the reporter can create a proper record.

(3) The ALJ may issue a subpoena under § 1.647 directing a witness to testify by telephonic conference call.

§ 1.653 How may a party use a deposition in the hearing?

(a) *In general.* Subject to the provisions of this section, a party may use in the hearing any part or all of a deposition taken under § 1.644 against any party who:

(1) Was present or represented at the taking of the deposition; or

(2) Had reasonable notice of the taking of the deposition.

(b) *Admissibility.* (1) No part of a deposition will be included in the hearing record, unless received in evidence by the ALJ.

(2) The ALJ will exclude from evidence any question and response to which an objection:

(i) Was noted at the taking of the deposition; and

(ii) Would have been sustained if the witness had been personally present and testifying at a hearing.

(3) If a party offers only part of a deposition in evidence:

(i) An adverse party may require the party to introduce any other part that ought in fairness to be considered with the part introduced; and

(ii) Any other party may introduce any other parts.

(c) *Videotaped deposition.* If the deposition was recorded on videotape and is admitted into evidence, relevant portions will be played during the hearing and transcribed into the record by the reporter.

§ 1.654 What are the requirements for exhibits, official notice, and stipulations?

(a) *General.* (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) through (e) of this section, any material offered in evidence, other than oral testimony, must be offered in the form of an exhibit.

(2) Each exhibit offered by a party must be marked for identification.

(3) Any party who seeks to have an exhibit admitted into evidence must provide:

(i) The original of the exhibit to the reporter, unless the ALJ permits the substitution of a copy; and

(ii) A copy of the exhibit to the ALJ.

(b) *Material not offered.* If a document offered as an exhibit contains material not offered as evidence:

(1) The party offering the exhibit must:

(i) Designate the matter offered as evidence;

(ii) Segregate and exclude the material not offered in evidence, to the extent practicable; and

(iii) Provide copies of the entire document to the other parties appearing at the hearing.

(2) The ALJ must give the other parties an opportunity to inspect the entire document and offer in evidence any other portions of the document.

(c) *Official notice.* (1) At the request of any party at the hearing, the ALJ may take official notice of any matter of which the courts of the United States may take judicial notice, including the public records of any Department party.

(2) The ALJ must give the other parties appearing at the hearing an opportunity to show the contrary of an officially noticed fact.

(3) Any party requesting official notice of a fact after the conclusion of the hearing must show good cause for its failure to request official notice during the hearing.

(d) *Stipulations.* (1) The parties may stipulate to any relevant facts or to the authenticity of any relevant documents.

(2) If received in evidence at the hearing, a stipulation is binding on the stipulating parties.

(3) A stipulation may be written or made orally at the hearing.

§ 1.655 What evidence is admissible at the hearing?

(a) *General.* (1) Subject to the provisions of § 1.642(b), the ALJ may admit any written, oral, documentary, or demonstrative evidence that is:

(i) Relevant, reliable, and probative; and

(ii) Not privileged or unduly repetitious or cumulative.

(2) The ALJ may exclude evidence if its probative value is substantially outweighed by the risk of undue prejudice, confusion of the issues, or delay.

(3) Hearsay evidence is admissible. The ALJ may consider the fact that evidence is hearsay when determining its probative value.

(4) The Federal Rules of Evidence do not directly apply to the hearing, but may be used as guidance by the ALJ and the parties in interpreting and applying the provisions of this section.

(b) *Objections.* Any party objecting to the admission or exclusion of evidence shall concisely state the grounds. A ruling on every objection must appear in the record.

§ 1.656 What are the requirements for transcription of the hearing?

(a) *Transcript and reporter's fees.* The hearing will be transcribed verbatim.

(1) The Forest Service will secure the services of a reporter and pay the reporter's fees to provide an original transcript to the Forest Service on an expedited basis.

(2) Each party must pay the reporter for any copies of the transcript obtained by that party.

(b) *Transcript Corrections.* (1) Any party may file a motion proposing corrections to the transcript. The motion must be filed within 5 days after receipt of the transcript, unless the ALJ sets a different deadline.

(2) Unless a party files a timely motion under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the transcript will be presumed to be correct and complete, except for obvious typographical errors.

(3) As soon as practicable after the close of the hearing and after consideration of any motions filed under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the ALJ will issue an order making any corrections to the transcript that the ALJ finds are warranted.

§ 1.657 What is the standard of proof?

The standard of proof is a preponderance of the evidence.

§ 1.658 When will the hearing record close?

(a) The hearing record will close when the ALJ closes the hearing, unless he or she directs otherwise.

(b) Evidence may not be added after the hearing record is closed, but the transcript may be corrected under § 1.656 (b).

§ 1.659 What are the requirements for post-hearing briefs?

(a) *General.* (1) Each party may file a post-hearing brief within 10 days after the close of the hearing, unless the ALJ sets a different deadline.

(2) A party may file a reply brief only if requested by the ALJ. The deadline for filing a reply brief, if any, will be set by the ALJ.

(3) The ALJ may limit the length of the briefs to be filed under this section.

(b) *Content.* (1) An initial brief must include:

(i) A concise statement of the case;

(ii) A separate section containing proposed findings regarding the issues of material fact, with supporting citations to the hearing record;

(iii) Arguments in support of the party's position; and

(iv) Any other matter required by the ALJ.

(2) A reply brief, if requested by the ALJ, must be limited to any issues identified by the ALJ.

(c) *Form.* (1) An exhibit admitted in evidence or marked for identification in the record may not be reproduced in the brief.

(i) Such an exhibit may be reproduced, within reasonable limits, in an appendix to the brief.

(ii) Any pertinent analysis of an exhibit may be included in a brief.

(2) If a brief exceeds 20 pages, it must contain:

(i) A table of contents and of points made, with page references; and

(ii) An alphabetical list of citations to legal authority, with page references.

§ 1.660 What are the requirements for the ALJ's decision?

(a) *Timing.* The ALJ must issue a decision within the shorter of the following time periods:

(1) 30 days after the close of the hearing under § 1.658; or

(2) 90 days after issuance of the referral notice under § 1.625(c), 43 CFR 45.25(c), or 50 CFR 221.25(c).

(b) *Content.* (1) The decision must contain:

(i) Findings of fact on all disputed issues of material fact;

(ii) Conclusions of law necessary to make the findings of fact (such as rulings on materiality and on the admissibility of evidence); and

(iii) Reasons for the findings and conclusions.

(2) The ALJ may adopt any of the findings of fact proposed by one or more of the parties.

(3) The decision will not contain conclusions as to whether any preliminary condition or prescription should be adopted, modified, or rejected, or whether any proposed alternative should be adopted or rejected.

(c) *Service.* Promptly after issuing his or her decision, the ALJ must:

(1) Serve the decision on each party to the hearing; and

(2) Forward a copy of the decision to FERC, along with the complete hearing record, for inclusion in the license proceeding record.

(d) *Finality.* The ALJ's decision under this section will be final, with respect to the disputed issues of material fact, for any Department involved in the hearing. To the extent the ALJ's decision forms the basis for any condition or prescription subsequently included in the license, it may be subject to judicial review under 16 U.S.C. 825*l*(b).

Alternatives Process

§ 1.670 How must documents be filed and served under §§ 1.670 through 1.673?

(a) *Filing.* (1) For the alternatives process, documents must be filed using one of the methods set forth in § 1.612(b).

(2) A document is considered filed on the date it is received. However, any document received after 5 p.m. at the place where the filing is due is considered filed on the next regular business day.

(b) *Service.* (1) Any document filed under this section must be served at the same time the document is delivered or sent for filing. A complete copy of the document must be served on each license party and FERC, using:

(i) One of the methods of service in § 1.613(c); or

(ii) Regular mail.

(2) The provisions of § 1.613 (d) and (e) regarding acknowledgment and certificate of service apply to service under this section.

§ 1.671 How do I propose an alternative?

(a) *General.* To propose an alternative, you must:

(1) Be a license party; and

(2) File a written proposal with NFS within 30 days after the deadline for the Forest Service to file preliminary conditions with FERC.

(b) *Content.* Your proposal must include:

(1) A description of the alternative, in an equivalent level of detail to the Forest Service's preliminary condition;

(2) An explanation of how the alternative will provide for the adequate protection and utilization of the reservation;

(3) An explanation of how the alternative, as compared to the preliminary condition, will:

(i) Cost significantly less to implement; or

(ii) Result in improved operation of the project works for electricity production;

(4) An explanation of how the alternative will affect:

(i) Energy supply, distribution, cost, and use;

(ii) Flood control;

(iii) Navigation;

(iv) Water supply;

(v) Air quality; and

(vi) Other aspects of environmental quality; and

(5) Specific citations to any scientific studies, literature, and other documented information relied on to support your proposal, including any assumptions you are making (e.g., regarding the cost of energy or the rate of inflation). If any such document is not already in the license proceeding record, you must provide a copy with the proposal.

§ 1.672 What will the Forest Service do with a proposed alternative?

If any license party proposes an alternative to a preliminary condition under § 1.671(a)(1), the Forest Service must do the following within 60 days after the deadline for filing comments to FERC's NEPA document under 18 CFR 5.25(c):

(a) Analyze the alternative under § 1.673; and

(b) File with FERC:

(1) Any condition that the Forest Service adopts as its modified condition; and

(2) Its analysis of the modified condition and any proposed alternatives under § 1.673(c).

§ 1.673 How will the Forest Service analyze a proposed alternative and formulate its modified condition?

(a) In deciding whether to adopt a proposed alternative, the Forest Service must consider evidence and supporting material provided by any license party or otherwise available to the Forest Service, including:

(1) Any evidence on the implementation costs or operational impacts for electricity production of the proposed alternative;

(2) Any comments received on the Forest Service's preliminary condition;

(3) Any ALJ decision on disputed issues of material fact issued under § 1.660 with respect to the preliminary condition;

(4) Comments received on any draft or final NEPA documents; and

(5) The license party's proposal under § 1.671.

(b) The Forest Service must adopt a proposed alternative if the Forest Service determines, based on substantial evidence provided by any license party or otherwise available to the Forest Service, that the alternative:

(1) Will, as compared to the Forest Service's preliminary condition:

(i) Cost significantly less to implement; or

(ii) Result in improved operation of the project works for electricity production; and

(2) Will provide for the adequate protection and utilization of the reservation.

(c) When the Forest Service files with FERC the condition that the Forest Service adopts as its modified condition under §§ 1.672(b), it must also file:

(1) A written statement explaining:

(i) The basis for the adopted condition; and

(ii) If the Forest Service is not adopting any alternative, its reasons for not doing so; and

(2) Any study, data, and other factual information relied on that is not already part of the licensing proceeding record.

(d) The written statement under paragraph (c)(1) of this section must demonstrate that the Forest Service gave equal consideration to the effects of the condition adopted and any alternative not adopted on:

(1) Energy supply, distribution, cost, and use;

(2) Flood control;

(3) Navigation;

(4) Water supply;

(5) Air quality; and

(6) Preservation of other aspects of environmental quality.

§ 1.674 Has OMB approved the information collection provisions of §§ 1.670 through 1.673?

Yes. This rule contains provisions that would collect information from the public. It therefore requires approval by the Office of Management and Budget

(OMB) under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* (PRA). According to the PRA, a Federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number that indicates OMB approval. OMB has reviewed the information collection in this rule and approved it under OMB control number 1094–0001.

Department of the Interior