

§ 175.61

reason(s) shall explain why the appellant believes the decision being appealed is in error, and shall include any argument(s) that the appellant wishes to make and any supporting document(s). The statement of reason(s) may be filed at the same time as the notice of appeal. If no statement of reason(s) is filed, the Area Director may summarily dismiss the appeal.

(c) Documents are properly filed with the Area Director when they are received in the facility officially designated for receipt of mail addressed to the Area Director, or in the immediate office of the Area Director.

(d) Within 30 days of filing of the statement of reason(s), the Area Director shall:

(1) Render a written decision on the appeal, or

(2) Refer the appeal to the Office of Hearings and Appeals Board of Indian Appeals for decision.

(e) Where the Area Director has not rendered a decision with 30 days of filing of the statement of reasons, the appellant may file an appeal with the Office of Hearings and Appeals Board of Indian Appeals pursuant to § 175.61.

§ 175.61 Appeals to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals.

(a) An Area Director's decision under this part, except a decision under § 175.11 or 175.13, may be appealed to the Office of Hearings and Appeals Board of Indian Appeals pursuant to the provisions of 43 CFR part 4, subpart D, except that a notice of appeal from a decision under § 175.12 shall be filed within 30 days of publication of the decision. The address for the Interior Board of Indian Appeals shall be included in the operations manual.

(b) Where the Area Director determines to refer an appeal to the Office of Hearings and Appeals Board of Indian Appeals, in lieu of deciding the appeal, he/she shall be responsible for making the referral.

(c) If no appeal is timely filed with the Office of Hearings and Appeals Board of Indian Appeals, the Area Director's decision shall be final for the Department of the Interior.

25 CFR Ch. I (4–1–10 Edition)

§ 175.62 Utility actions pending the appeal process.

Pending an appeal, utility actions relating to the subject of the appeal shall be as follows:

(a) If the appeal involves discontinuance of service, the utility is not required to resume such service during the appeal process unless the customer meets the utility's requirements.

(b) If the appeal involves the amount of a bill and:

(1) The customer has paid the bill, the customer shall be deemed to have paid the bill under protest until the final decision has been rendered on the appeal; or

(2) The customer has not paid the bill and the final decision rendered in the appeal requires payment of the bill, the bill shall be handled as a delinquent account and the amount of the bill shall be subject to interest, penalties, and administrative costs pursuant to section 3 of the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966, As amended, 31 U.S.C. 3717.

(c) If the appeal involves an electric power rate, the rate shall be implemented and remain in effect subject to the final decision on the appeal.

PART 179—LIFE ESTATES AND FUTURE INTERESTS

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