

Department of Justice

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them, respectively, to any of their subordinates. Existing delegations of authority to officers and employees and to U.S. Attorneys, not inconsistent with this subpart X, made by any officer named in this section or by the Assistant Attorney General for Administration, shall continue in force and effect until modified or revoked.

[Order No. 543-73, 38 FR 29587, Oct. 26, 1973]

Subpart Y—Authority To Compromise and Close Civil Claims and Responsibility for Judgments, Fines, Penalties, and Forfeitures

§0.160 Offers that may be accepted by Assistant Attorneys General.

(a) Subject to the limitations set forth in paragraph (d) of this section, Assistant Attorneys General are authorized, with respect to matters assigned to their respective divisions, to:

(1) Accept offers in compromise of claims asserted by the United States in all cases in which the difference between the gross amount of the original claim and the proposed settlement does not exceed \$2,000,000 or 15 percent of the original claim, whichever is greater;

(2) Accept offers in compromise of, or settle administratively, claims against the United States in all cases in which the principal amount of the proposed settlement does not exceed \$2,000,000; and

(3) Accept offers in compromise in all nonmonetary cases.

(b) Subject to the limitations set forth in paragraph (d) of this section, the Assistant Attorney General, Tax Division, is further authorized to accept offers in compromise of, or settle administratively, claims against the United States, regardless of the amount of the proposed settlement, in all cases in which the Joint Committee on Taxation has indicated that it has no adverse criticism of the proposed settlement.

(c) Subject to the limitations set forth in paragraph (d) of this section, the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, is further authorized to approve settlements under the Comprehensive

Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*, regardless of the amount of the proposed settlement, with:

(1) Parties whose contribution to contamination at a hazardous waste site is *de minimis* within the meaning of 42 U.S.C. 9622(g); or

(2) Parties whose responsibility can be equitably allocated and are:

(A) Paying at least the allocated amount; or

(B) Unable to pay the allocated amount as confirmed by a qualified financial expert.

(d) Any proposed settlement, regardless of amount or circumstances, must be referred to the Deputy Attorney General or the Associate Attorney General, as appropriate:

(1) When, for any reason, the compromise of a particular claim would, as a practical matter, control or adversely influence the disposition of other claims and the compromise of all the claims taken together would exceed the authority delegated by paragraph (a) of this section; or

(2) When the Assistant Attorney General concerned is of the opinion that because of a question of law or policy presented, or because of opposition to the proposed settlement by a department or agency involved, or for any other reason, the proposed settlement should receive the personal attention of the Deputy Attorney General or the Associate Attorney General, as appropriate;

(3) When the proposed settlement converts into a mandatory duty the otherwise discretionary authority of a department or agency to promulgate, revise, or rescind regulations;

(4) When the proposed settlement commits a department or agency to expend funds that Congress has not appropriated and that have not been budgeted for the action in question, or commits a department or agency to seek particular appropriation or budget authorization; or

(5) When the proposed settlement otherwise limits the discretion of a department or agency to make policy or managerial decisions committed to the

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department or agency by Congress or by the Constitution.

[Order No. 1958-95, 60 FR 15674, Mar. 27, 1995, as amended by Order No. 3001-2008, 73 FR 54947, Sept. 24, 2008]

§0.161 Acceptance of certain offers by the Deputy Attorney General or Associate Attorney General, as appropriate.

(a) In all cases in which the acceptance of a proposed offer in compromise would exceed the authority delegated by §0.160, the Assistant Attorney General concerned shall, when he is of the opinion that the proposed offer should be accepted, transmit his recommendation to that effect to the Deputy Attorney General or the Associate Attorney General, as appropriate.

(b) The Deputy Attorney General or the Associate Attorney General, as appropriate, is authorized to exercise the settlement authority of the Attorney General as to all claims asserted by or against the United States.

[Order No. 1958-95, 60 FR 15675, Mar. 27, 1995]

§0.162 Offers which may be rejected by Assistant Attorneys General.

Each Assistant Attorney General is authorized, with respect to matters assigned to his division or office, to reject offers in compromise of any claims in behalf of the United States, or, in compromises or administrative actions to settle, against the United States, except in those cases which come under §0.160(c)(2).

[Order No. 423-69, 34 FR 20388, Dec. 31, 1969, as amended by Order No. 445-70, 35 FR 19397, Dec. 23, 1970; Order No. 960-81, 46 FR 52352, Oct. 27, 1981]

§0.163 Approval by Solicitor General of action on compromise offers in certain cases.

In any Supreme Court case the acceptance, recommendation of acceptance, or rejection, under §0.160, §0.161, or §0.162, of a compromise offer by the Assistant Attorney General concerned, shall have the approval of the Solicitor General. In any case in which the Solicitor General has authorized an appeal to any other court, a compromise offer, or any other action, which would terminate the appeal, shall be accepted or acted upon by the Assistant Attor-

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ney General concerned only upon advice from the Solicitor General that the principles of law involved do not require appellate review in that case.

§0.164 Civil claims that may be closed by Assistant Attorneys General.

Assistant Attorneys General are authorized, with respect to matters assigned to their respective divisions, to close (other than by compromise or by entry of judgment) claims asserted by the United States in all cases in which they would have authority to accept offers in compromise of such claims under §0.160(a), except:

(a) When for any reason, the closing of a particular claim would, as a practical matter, control or adversely influence the disposition of other claims and the closing of all the claims taken together would exceed the authority delegated by this section; or

(b) When the Assistant Attorney General concerned is of the opinion that because of a question of law or policy presented, or because of opposition to the proposed closing by the department or agency involved, or for any other reason, the proposed closing should receive the personal attention of the Attorney General, the Deputy Attorney General or the Associate Attorney General, as appropriate.

[Order No. 1958-95, 60 FR 15675, Mar. 27, 1995]

§0.165 Recommendations to the Deputy Attorney General or Associate Attorney General, as appropriate, that certain claims be closed.

In all cases in which the closing of a claim asserted by the United States would exceed the authority delegated by §§0.160(a) and 0.164, the Assistant Attorney General concerned shall, when he is of the opinion that the claim should be closed, transmit his recommendation to that effect, together with a report on the matter, to the Deputy Attorney General or the Associate Attorney General, as appropriate, for review and final action. Such report shall be in such form as the Deputy Attorney General or the Associate Attorney General may require.

[Order No. 1958-95, 60 FR 15675, Mar. 27, 1995]