§ 12.8 Meetings.

(a) Advisory committees established under this part shall not hold any meetings, nor shall they render any advice, except at the call of, or with the advice and approval of, the Federal Officer or employee designated in accordance with §12.10 of this part, who shall also approve the agenda of such meetings. Timely notice of each meeting shall be provided in accordance with §12.11 of this part.

(b) The agenda required by paragraph (a) of this section shall list the matters to be considered at the meeting. It shall also indicate when any part of the meeting will concern matters within the exceptions of the (Government) Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. 552b, and §12.9 of this part.

(c) Subject to the provisions of §12.9 of this part, each advisory committee meeting shall be open to the public. Meetings which are completely or partly open to the public shall be held at reasonable times and at such a place that is reasonably accessible to the public. The size of the meeting room should be determined by such factors as the size of the committee, the number of members of the public who could reasonably be expected to attend, the number of persons who attended similar meetings in the past, and the resource facilities available.

(d) Any member of the public shall be permitted to file a written statement with the committee related to any meeting that is completely or partly open to the public. Interested persons may also be permitted by the committee chairman to speak at such meetings in accordance with the procedures established by the committee.

§ 12.9 Closed meetings.

(a) The requirements of §12.8 (c) and (d) of this part that meetings shall be open to the public and that the public shall be afforded an opportunity to participate in such meetings shall not apply to any advisory committee meeting which the President or the Administrator determines is concerned with matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c).

(b) An advisory committee which seeks to have all or part of its meetings closed shall notify the Administrator before the scheduled date of the meeting. The notification shall be in writing and shall specify the reasons why any part of the meeting should be closed.

(c) A request that the meeting be closed will be granted upon determination by the Administrator that the request is in accordance with the policies of this part. The Administrator’s determination will be in writing and will state the specific reasons for closing all or part of the meeting. The determination will be made available to the public upon request.

(d) The Administrator may delegate responsibility for making the determination required by paragraph (c) of this section. In any case where the determination to close the meeting is made by the Administrator’s delegate, the determination will be reviewed by the Chief Counsel.

(e) When a meeting is closed to the public, the advisory committee shall issue a report, at least annually, setting forth a summary of its activities in such meetings, addressing those related matters as would be informative to the public and consistent with the policy of 5 U.S.C. 552b(c) and of this part. Notice of the availability of such annual reports shall be published in accordance with §12.11 of this part.