

Counsel of TVA for an order requiring the person to appear before the Hearing Officer, to produce evidence or give testimony, or both. Any failure of any such person to obey the order of the court may be punished by the court as a contempt thereof.

PART 1309—NONDISCRIMINATION WITH RESPECT TO AGE

Sec.

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AUTHORITY: TVA Act of 1933, 48 Stat. 58 (1933), as amended, 16 U.S.C. 831-831dd (1976), and sec. 304 of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 89 Stat 729 (1975), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6103 (1976).

SOURCE: 46 FR 30811, June 11, 1981, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1309.1 What are the defined terms in this part and what do they mean?

As used in this part the following terms have the stated meanings:

(a) *Act* means the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, 42 U.S.C. 6101, *et seq.* (Title III of Pub. L. 94-135).

(b) *Action* means any act, activity, policy, rule, standard, or method of administration; or the use of any policy, rule, standard, or method of administration.

(c) *Age* means how old a person is, or the number of elapsed years from the date of a person's birth.

(d) *Age distinction* means any action using age or an age-related term.

(e) *Age-related term* means a term which necessarily implies a particular age or range of ages (for example, "children," "adult," "older persons," but not "student").

(f) *Financial assistance* means any grant, entitlement, loan, cooperative agreement, contract (other than a procurement contract or a contract of insurance or guaranty), or any other arrangement, by which TVA provides or otherwise makes available to a recipient assistance in any of the following forms:

- (1) Funds;
- (2) Services of TVA personnel;
- (3) Real and personal property or any interest in or use of property, including:

(i) Transfers or leases of property for less than fair market value or for reduced consideration; and

(ii) Proceeds from a subsequent transfer or lease of property if the share of its fair market value provided by TVA is not returned to TVA.

(g) For purposes of §§ 1309.6 and 1309.7, *normal operation* means the operation of a program or activity without significant changes that would impair its ability to meet its objectives.

(h) *Program or activity* means all of the operations of any entity described in paragraphs (h)(1) through (4) of this section, any part of which is extended Federal financial assistance:

- (1)(i) A department, agency, special purpose district, or other instrumentality of a State or of a local government; or

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(ii) The entity of such State or local government that distributes such assistance and each such department or agency (and each other State or local government entity) to which the assistance is extended, in the case of assistance to a State or local government;

(2)(i) A college, university, or other postsecondary institution, or a public system of higher education; or

(ii) A local educational agency (as defined in 20 U.S.C. 7801), system of vocational education, or other school system;

(3)(i) An entire corporation, partnership, or other private organization, or an entire sole proprietorship—

(A) If assistance is extended to such corporation, partnership, private organization, or sole proprietorship as a whole; or

(B) Which is principally engaged in the business of providing education, health care, housing, social services, or parks and recreation; or

(ii) The entire plant or other comparable, geographically separate facility to which Federal financial assistance is extended, in the case of any other corporation, partnership, private organization, or sole proprietorship; or

(4) Any other entity which is established by two or more of the entities described in paragraph (h)(1), (2), or (3) of this section.

(i) For purposes of §§ 1309.6 and 1309.7, *statutory objective* means any purpose of a program or activity expressly stated in any Federal statute, State statute, or local statute or ordinance adopted by an elected, general purpose legislative body.

(j) *Recipient* means any State or its political subdivision, any instrumentality of a State or its political subdivision, any State-created or recognized public or private agency, institution, organization, or other entity, or any person to which TVA extends financial assistance directly or through another recipient. Recipient includes any successor, assignee, or transferee, but excludes the ultimate beneficiary of the assistance.

(k) *Secretary* means the Secretary of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and its successors.

(1) *United States* means the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, Wake Island, the Canal Zone, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the Northern Marianas, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

(m) *TVA* means the Tennessee Valley Authority.

[46 FR 30811, June 11, 1981, as amended at 68 FR 51357, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 1309.2 What is the purpose of the Act?

The Act is designed to prohibit discrimination on the basis of age in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance. The Act also permits federally assisted programs or activities, and recipients of Federal funds, to continue to use certain age distinctions and factors other than age which meet the requirements of the Act and this part.

[46 FR 30811, June 11, 1981, as amended at 68 FR 51357, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 1309.3 What is the purpose of this part?

The purpose of this part is to effectuate the Act in all programs or activities of recipients which receive financial assistance from TVA, and to inform the public and the recipients of financial assistance from TVA of the Act's requirements and how it will be enforced.

§ 1309.4 What programs or activities are covered by the Act and this part?

(a) The Act and this part apply to any program or activity receiving financial assistance from TVA.

(b) The Act and this part do not apply to:

(1) An age distinction contained in that part of a Federal, State or local statute or ordinance adopted by an elected, general purpose legislative body which:

(i) Provides any benefits or assistance to persons based on age; or

(ii) Establishes criteria for participation in age-related terms; or

(iii) Describes intended beneficiaries or target groups in age-related terms.

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(2) Any employment practice of any employer, employment agency, labor organization, or any labor-management joint apprenticeship training program.

§ 1309.5 What are the rules against age discrimination?

(a) *General rule.* No person in the United States shall, on the basis of age, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity receiving financial assistance from TVA.

(b) *Specific rules.* In any program or activity receiving financial assistance from TVA, a recipient may not directly or through contractual, licensing, or other arrangements, use age distinctions or take any other actions which have the effect, on the basis of age of:

(1) Excluding individuals from, denying them the benefits of, or subjecting them to discrimination under a program or activity receiving financial assistance from TVA, or

(2) Denying or limiting individuals in their opportunity to participate in any program or activity receiving financial assistance from TVA.

(c) The specific forms of age discrimination listed in paragraph (b) of this section do not necessarily constitute a complete list.

(d) The rules stated in this section are limited by the exceptions contained in §§ 1309.6 and 1309.7.

§ 1309.6 Is the normal operation or statutory objective of any program or activity an exception to the rules against age discrimination?

A recipient is permitted to take an action, otherwise prohibited by § 1309.5, if the action reasonably takes into account age as a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any statutory objective of a program or activity. An action reasonably takes into account age as a factor necessary to the normal operation or the achievement of any statutory objective of a program or activity, if:

(a) Age is used as a measure or approximation of one or more other characteristics; and

(b) The other characteristic(s) must be measured or approximated in order

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for the normal operation of the program or activity to continue, or to achieve any statutory objective of the program or activity; and

(c) The other characteristic(s) can be reasonably measured or approximated by the use of age; and

(d) It is impractical to measure the other characteristic(s) directly on an individual basis.

§ 1309.7 Is the use of reasonable factors other than age an exception to the rules against age discrimination?

A recipient is permitted to take an action otherwise prohibited by § 1309.5 which is based on a factor other than age, even though that action may have a disproportionate effect on persons of different ages. An action may be based on a factor other than age only if the factor bears a direct and substantial relationship to the normal operation of the program or activity or to the achievement of a statutory objective.

§ 1309.8 Who has the burden of proving that an action is excepted?

The burden of proving that an age distinction or other action falls within the exceptions outlined in §§ 1309.6 and 1309.7 is on the recipient of financial assistance from TVA.

§ 1309.9 How does TVA provide financial assistance in conformity with the Act?

(a) TVA contributes financial assistance only under agreements which contain a provision which specifically requires compliance with the Act and this part. If the financial assistance involves the furnishing of real property, the agreement shall obligate the recipient, or the transferee in the case of a subsequent transfer, for the period during which the real property is used for a purpose for which the financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits. Where the financial assistance involves the furnishing of personal property, the agreement shall obligate the recipient during the period for which ownership or possession of the property is retained. In all other cases the agreement shall obligate the recipient for the period

during which financial assistance is extended pursuant to the agreement. TVA shall specify the form of the foregoing agreement, and the extent to which an agreement shall be applicable to subcontractors, transferees, successors in interest, and other participants.

(b) In the case of real property, structures or improvements thereon, or interests therein, acquired through a program of TVA financial assistance, or in the case where TVA financial assistance was provided in the form of a transfer by TVA of real property or an interest therein, the instrument effecting or recording the transfer of title shall contain a covenant running with the land assuring compliance with this part and the guidelines contained herein for the period during which the real property is used for a purpose for which the TVA financial assistance is extended or for another purpose involving the provision of similar services or benefits. Where no transfer of property is involved, but property is improved with TVA financial assistance, the recipient shall agree to include such a covenant in any subsequent transfer of such property. Where the property is obtained by transfer from TVA, the covenant against discrimination may also include a condition coupled with a right to be reserved by TVA to revert title to the property in the event of a breach of the covenant where, in the discretion of TVA, such a condition and right of reverter is appropriate to the nature of (1) the statute under which the real property is obtained, (2) the recipient, and (3) the instrument effecting or recording the transfer of title. In such event, if a transferee of real property proposes to mortgage or otherwise encumber the real property as security for financing construction of new, or improvement of existing, facilities on such property for the purposes for which the property was transferred, TVA may agree, upon request of the transferee and if necessary to accomplish such financing, and upon such conditions as it deems appropriate, to forbear the exercise of such right to revert title for so long as the lien of such mortgage or other encumbrance remains effective.

[46 FR 30811, June 11, 1981, as amended at 68 FR 51357, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 1309.10 What general responsibilities do recipients and TVA have to ensure compliance with the Act?

(a) A recipient has primary responsibility to ensure that its programs or activities are in compliance with the Act and shall take steps to eliminate violations of the Act. A recipient also has responsibility to maintain records, provide information, and afford TVA access to its records to the extent required by TVA to determine whether the recipient is in compliance with the Act.

(b) TVA has responsibility to attempt to secure a recipient's compliance with the Act by voluntary means, to the fullest extent practicable, and to provide assistance and guidance to recipients to help them comply voluntarily. TVA may use the services of appropriate Federal, State, local, or private organizations for this purpose. TVA also has the responsibility to enforce the Act when a recipient fails to eliminate violations of the Act.

[46 FR 30811, June 11, 1981, as amended at 68 FR 51357, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 1309.11 What specific responsibilities do TVA and recipients have to ensure compliance with the Act?

(a) *Written notice, technical assistance, and educational materials.* TVA shall:

(1) Provide written notice to each recipient of its obligations under the Act. The notice shall include a requirement that where the recipient initially receiving funds makes the funds available to a subrecipient, the recipient must notify the subrecipient of its obligations under the Act. The notice may be made a part of the contract under which financial assistance is provided by TVA.

(2) Provide technical assistance to recipients, where necessary, to aid them in complying with the Act.

(3) Make available educational materials setting forth the rights and obligations of beneficiaries and recipients under the Act.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 1309.12 What are a recipient's responsibilities on compliance reports and access to information?

(a) *Compliance reports.* Each recipient shall keep such records and submit to

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TVA timely, complete and accurate compliance reports at such times and in such form and containing such information, as TVA may determine to be necessary to enable it to ascertain whether the recipient has complied or is complying with this part. In the case in which a primary recipient passes through financial assistance from TVA to any other recipient, such other recipient shall also submit such compliance reports to the primary recipient as may be necessary to enable the primary recipient to carry out its obligations under this part.

(b) *Access to sources of information.* Each recipient shall permit access by TVA during normal business hours to such of its books, records, accounts and other sources of information, and its facilities as may be pertinent to ascertain compliance with this part. Where any information required of a recipient is in the exclusive possession of any other agency, institution or person, and such agency, institution or person shall fail or refuse to furnish this information, the recipient shall so certify in its report and shall set forth what efforts it has made to obtain the information.

(c) *Information to beneficiaries and participants.* Each recipient shall make available to participants, beneficiaries, and other interested persons such information regarding the provisions of this part and its applicability to the program or activity for which the recipient receives financial assistance, and make such information available to them in such manner as TVA finds necessary to apprise such persons of the protections against discrimination assured them by the Act and this part.

[46 FR 30811, June 11, 1981, as amended at 68 FR 51357, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 1309.13 What are the prohibitions against intimidation or retaliation?

No recipient or other person shall intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right secured by the Act or this part, or because such individual has made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, mediation, hearing, or other proceeding under this part. The identity of

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complainants shall be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of this part, including the conduct of any investigation, mediation, hearing, or judicial proceeding arising under the Act or this part.

§ 1309.14 How will complaints against recipients be processed?

(a) *Receipt of complaints.* Any individual who claims (individually or on behalf of any specific class of individuals) that he or she has been subjected to discrimination prohibited by this part (including § 1309.13) may file a written complaint with TVA. The written complaint must be filed not later than 90 days from the date of the alleged discrimination, unless the time for filing is extended by TVA for good cause shown. A complaint shall be signed by the complainant, give the name and mailing address of the complainant and the recipient, identify the TVA financial assistance involved, and state the facts and occurrences (including dates) which led the complainant to believe that an act of prohibited discrimination has occurred. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted or filed under this section, but may be the basis for a compliance review. TVA will reject any complaint which does not fall within the coverage of the Act and this part, and may reject or require supplementation or clarification of any complaint which does not contain sufficient information for further processing as set forth in this paragraph. A complaint shall not be deemed filed until all such information has been provided to TVA.

(b) *Prompt resolution of complaints.* The complaint shall be resolved promptly. To this end, TVA shall proceed with the complaint without undue delay so that the complaint is resolved within 180 calendar days after it is filed with TVA. The recipient and complainant involved in each complaint are required to cooperate in this effort. Failure to cooperate on the part of the complainant may result in cancellation of the complaint, while such failure on the part of the recipient may result in enforcement action as described in § 1309.15.

(c) *Mediation of complaints.* All complaints which fall within the coverage of the Act and this part will be referred to a mediation agency designated by the Secretary.

(1) The participation of the recipient and the complainant in the mediation process is required, although both parties need not meet with the mediator at the same time.

(2) If the complainant and recipient reach a mutually satisfactory resolution of the complaint during the mediation period, they shall reduce the agreement to writing. The mediator shall send a copy of the settlement to TVA. No further action shall be taken based on that complaint unless it appears that the complainant or the recipient is failing to comply with the agreement.

(3) Not more than 60 days after the complaint is filed, the mediator shall return a still unresolved complaint to TVA for initial investigation. The mediator may return a complaint at any time before the end of the 60-day period if it appears that the complaint cannot be resolved through mediation.

(4) The mediator shall protect the confidentiality of all information obtained in the course of the mediation process. No mediator shall testify in any adjudicative proceeding, produce any document, or otherwise disclose any information obtained in the course of the mediation process without prior approval of the head of the agency appointing the mediator.

(d) *Investigation.* (1) TVA will make a prompt investigation whenever a complaint is unresolved within 60 days after it is filed with TVA or is reopened because of a violation of the mediation agreement. The investigation should include, where appropriate, a review of the pertinent practices and policies of the recipient, the circumstances under which the possible noncompliance with the Act and this part occurred, and other factors relevant to a determination as to whether the recipient has failed to comply with the Act and this part.

(2) As part of the initial investigation, TVA shall use informal fact finding methods including joint or individual discussions with the complainant and recipient to establish the facts,

and, if possible, to resolve the complaint to the mutual satisfaction of the parties. TVA may seek the assistance of any involved State agency.

(3) If TVA cannot resolve the matter within 10 calendar days after the mediator returns the complaint, it shall complete the investigation, attempt to achieve voluntary compliance satisfactory to TVA, if the investigation indicates a violation, and arrange for enforcement as described in §1309.15, if necessary.

[46 FR 30811, June 11, 1981, as amended at 68 FR 51357, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 1309.15 How will TVA enforce compliance with the Act and this part?

(a) If a compliance report, self-evaluation, or preaward review indicates a violation or threatened violation of the Act or this part, TVA shall attempt to secure the recipient's voluntary compliance with the Act and this part. If the violation or threatened violation cannot be corrected by informal means, compliance with the Act and this part may be effected by the following means:

(1) Termination of a recipient's financial assistance under the program or activity involved where the recipient has violated the Act or this part. The determination of the recipient's violation may be made only after a recipient has had an opportunity for a hearing on the record before an appropriate hearing officer.

(2) Any other means authorized by law including but not limited to:

(i) Referral to the Department of Justice for proceedings to enforce any rights of the United States or obligations of the recipient created by the Act or this part.

(ii) Use of any requirement of or referral to any Federal, State, or local government agency which will have the effect of correcting a violation of the Act or this part.

(iii) Commencement by TVA of proceedings to enforce any rights of TVA or obligations of the recipient created by the contract, the Act, or this part.

(b) Any termination under paragraph (a)(1) of this section shall be limited to the particular recipient and the particular program or activity (or portion thereof) receiving financial assistance

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from TVA which is found to be in violation of the Act or this part. No termination shall be based in whole or in part on a finding with respect to any program or activity which does not receive financial assistance from TVA.

(c) No assistance will be terminated under paragraph (a)(1) of this section until:

(1) TVA has advised the recipient of its failure to comply with the Act or this part and has determined that voluntary compliance cannot be obtained.

(2) Thirty days have elapsed after TVA has sent a written report of the circumstances and grounds of the termination of assistance to the committees of the Congress having legislative jurisdiction over the program or activity involved. A report shall be filed in each case in which TVA has determined that assistance will be terminated under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(d) TVA may defer granting new financial assistance to a recipient when termination proceedings under paragraph (a)(1) of this section are initiated.

(1) New financial assistance includes all assistance administered by or through TVA for which an application or approval, including renewal or continuation of existing activities, or authorization of new activities, is required during the deferral period. New financial assistance does not include assistance approved prior to the beginning of termination proceedings.

(2) A deferral may not begin until the recipient has received a notice of opportunity for a hearing under paragraph (a)(1) of this section. A deferral may not continue for more than 60 days unless a hearing has begun within that time or the time for beginning the hearing has been extended by mutual consent of the recipient and TVA. A deferral may not continue for more than 30 days after the close of the hearing, unless the hearing results in a finding against the recipient.

[46 FR 30811, June 11, 1981, as amended at 68 FR 51357, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 1309.16 What is the alternate funds disbursement procedure?

When TVA withholds funds from a recipient under this part, TVA may con-

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tract to disburse the withheld funds directly to any public or nonprofit private organization or agency, or State or political subdivision of the State. These alternate recipients must demonstrate the ability to comply with this part and to achieve the goals of the Federal financial assistance involved.

[46 FR 30811, June 11, 1981, as amended at 68 FR 51357, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 1309.17 What is the procedure for hearings and issuance of TVA decisions required by this part?

(a) *Opportunity for hearing.* Whenever an opportunity for a hearing is required by § 1309.15(a)(1), reasonable notice shall be given by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to the affected recipient. This notice shall advise the recipient of the action proposed to be taken, the specific provision under which the proposed action against it is to be taken, and the matters of fact or law asserted as the basis for this action, and either (1) fix a date not less than 20 days after the date of such notice within which the recipient may request of TVA that the matter be scheduled for hearing or (2) advise the recipient that the matter in question has been set down for hearing at a stated time and place. The time and place so fixed shall be reasonable and shall be subject to change for cause. The complainant, if any, shall be advised of the time and place of the hearing. A recipient may waive a hearing and submit written information and argument for the record. The failure of a recipient to request a hearing under this subsection or to appear at a hearing for which a date has been set shall be deemed to be a waiver of the right to a hearing under the Act and § 1309.15(a)(1) and a consent to the making of a decision on the basis of such information as is available.

(b) *Time and place of hearing.* Hearings shall be held at the time and place fixed by TVA unless it determines that the convenience of the recipient requires that another place be selected. Hearings shall be held before a hearing officer who shall be designated by TVA's General Manager, and who shall not be a TVA employee.

(c) *Right to counsel.* In all proceedings under this section, the recipient and TVA shall have the right to be represented by counsel.

(d) *Procedures, evidence, and record.* (1) The hearing, decision, and any administrative review thereof by TVA's Board of Directors shall be conducted in conformity with this part and in accordance with such rules of procedure as are proper (and not inconsistent with this section) relating to the conduct of the hearing, giving of notices subsequent to those provided for in paragraph (a) of this section, taking of testimony, exhibits, arguments and briefs, requests for findings, and other related matters, as prescribed by the hearing officer. Both TVA and the recipient shall be entitled to introduce all relevant evidence on the issues as stated in the notice for hearing or as determined by the hearing officer at the outset of or during the hearing.

(2) Technical rules of evidence shall not apply to hearings conducted pursuant to this part, but rules or principles designed to assure production of the most credible evidence available and to subject testimony to test by cross-examination shall be applied where reasonably necessary by the hearing officer. The hearing officer may exclude irrelevant, immaterial, or unduly repetitious evidence. All documents and other evidence offered or received for the record shall be open to examination by the parties and opportunity shall be given to refute facts and arguments advanced on either side of the issues. A transcript shall be made of the oral evidence except to the extent the substance thereof is stipulated for the record. All decisions shall be based upon the hearing record and written findings shall be made.

(e) *Consolidated or joint hearings.* In cases in which the same or related facts are asserted to constitute non-compliance with this part with respect to two or more Federal statutes, authorities, of other means by which Federal financial assistance is extended and to which this part applies, or non-compliance with this part and the regulations of one or more other Federal departments or agencies issued under the Act, the TVA Board may, by agreement with such other departments or

agencies where applicable, provide for the conduct of consolidated or joint hearings, and for the application to such hearings of the rules of procedure applicable to such hearings by such other departments or agencies. Final decisions in such cases, insofar as this part is concerned, shall be made in accordance with paragraph (f) of this section.

(f) *Decisions.* (1) After the hearing, or after the hearing is waived under paragraph (a) of this section, the hearing officer shall make an initial decision. The recipient may file exceptions to the decision with the TVA Board within 10 days of receipt of the decision. If exceptions are not filed within the specified time, the hearing officer's initial decision becomes the final TVA decision.

(2) Based on the hearing record, investigation, and any written submission to the hearing officer or the TVA Board, the Board shall render its decision accepting the initial decision, or rejecting it, in whole or part.

(3) The final decision may provide for suspension or termination of, or refusal to grant or continue financial assistance, in whole or in part, to which this regulation applies, and may contain such terms, conditions, and other provisions as are consistent with and will effectuate the purposes of the Act and this part, including provisions designed to assure that no financial assistance to which this regulations applies will thereafter be extended to the recipient determined by such decision to have failed to comply with this part, unless and until it corrects its noncompliance and satisfies TVA that it will fully comply with this part.

(g) *Posttermination proceedings.* (1) A recipient adversely affected by an order issued under paragraph (f) of this section shall be restored to full eligibility to receive financial assistance from TVA if it satisfies the terms and conditions of that order for such eligibility or if it brings itself into compliance with this part and provides reasonable assurance that it will fully comply with this part.

(2) Any recipient adversely affected by an order entered pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section may at any time request TVA to restore fully its

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eligibility to receive financial assistance from TVA. Any such request shall be supported by information showing that the recipient has met the requirements of paragraph (g)(1) of this section. If TVA determines that those requirements have been satisfied, it shall restore such eligibility.

(3) If TVA denies any such request, the recipient may submit a written request for a hearing, specifying why it believes TVA to have been in error. The recipient shall thereupon be given an expeditious hearing, with a decision on the record, in accordance with rules of procedure issued by TVA. The recipient will be restored to such eligibility if it proves at such a hearing that it satisfied the requirements of paragraph (g)(1) of this section. While proceedings under this paragraph are pending, the sanctions imposed by the order issued under paragraph (f)(3) of this section shall remain in effect.

[46 FR 30811, June 11, 1981, as amended at 68 FR 51357, Aug. 26, 2003]

§ 1309.18 Under what circumstances must recipients take remedial or affirmative action?

(a) Where a recipient is found to have discriminated on the basis of age, the recipient shall take any remedial action which TVA may require to overcome the effects of the discrimination, if another recipient exercises control over the recipient that has discriminated, both recipients may be required to take remedial action.

(b) Even in the absence of a finding of discrimination, a recipient may take affirmative action to overcome the effects of conditions that resulted in limited participation recipient's program or activity on the basis of age.

(c) If a recipient operating a program or activity which serves the elderly or children, in addition to persons of other ages, provides special benefits to the elderly or to children, the provision of those benefits shall be presumed to be voluntary affirmative action provided that it does not have the effect of excluding otherwise eligible persons from participation in the program or activity.

[46 FR 30811, June 11, 1981, as amended at 68 FR 51357, Aug. 26, 2003]

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§ 1309.19 When may a complainant file a civil action?

(a) A complainant may file a civil action following the exhaustion of administrative remedies under the Act. Administrative remedies are exhausted if:

(1) 180 days have elapsed since the complainant filed the complaint and TVA has made no finding with regard to the complaint; or

(2) TVA issues any finding in favor of the recipient.

(b) If either of the conditions set forth in paragraph (a) of this section is satisfied, TVA shall:

(1) Promptly advise the complainant of this fact; and

(2) Advise the complainant of his or her right, under Section 305(e) of the Act, to bring a civil action for injunctive relief that will effect the purposes of the Act; and

(3) Inform the complainant:

(i) That a civil action can only be brought in a United States district court for the district in which the recipient is found or transacts business;

(ii) That a complainant prevailing in a civil action has the right to be awarded the costs of the action, including reasonable attorney's fees, but that these costs must be demanded in the complaint;

(iii) That before commencing the action the complainant shall give 30 days' notice by registered mail to the Secretary, the Attorney General of the United States, TVA, and the recipient;

(iv) That the notice shall state: the alleged violation of the Act; the relief requested; the court in which the action will be brought; and whether or not attorney's fees are demanded in the event the complainant prevails; and

(v) That no action shall be brought if the same alleged violation of the Act by the same recipient is the subject of a pending action in any court of the United States.

PART 1310—ADMINISTRATIVE COST RECOVERY

Sec.

1310.1 Purpose.

1310.2 Application.

1310.3 Assessment of administrative charge.

AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 831-831dd; 31 U.S.C. 9701.