

by a system of records, FCC/WTB-1, “Wireless Services Licensing Records,” and these and all other records may be disclosed pursuant to the Routine Uses as stated in this system of records notice.

Privacy Act: No impact(s).

Needs and Uses: On October 22, 2018, the Commission released a Report and Order and Order in WP Docket No. 15–32, RM–11572, WP Docket No. 16–261, RM–11719 and RM–11722 WP Docket No. 15–32 which adds new rule § 90.621(d)(4) to the Commission’s rules. The new rule section requires applicants seeking to license newly available 12.5 kHz bandwidth interstitial channels in the 809–817 MHz/854–862 MHz segment of the 800 MHz band (800 MHz Mid-Band) to include a letter of concurrence from an incumbent licensee if the applicant files an application which causes contour overlap under a forward analysis or receives contour overlap under a reciprocal analysis when the applicant seeks to license channels in the 800 MHz Mid-Band. In the case of the forward analysis, the incumbent licensee must agree in its concurrence letter to accept any interference that occurs as a result of the contour overlap. In the case of the reciprocal analysis, the incumbent licensee must state in its concurrence letter that it does not object to the applicant receiving contour overlap from the incumbent’s facility. The purpose of requiring applicants to obtain letters of concurrence if their application causes contour overlap under a forward analysis or receives contour overlap under a reciprocal analysis is to ensure incumbents in the 800 MHz Mid-Band are aware of the contour overlap before an application is granted.

List of Subjects in 47 CFR Part 90

Administrative practice and procedure, Business and industry, Civil defense, Common carriers, Communications equipment, Emergency medical services, Individuals with disabilities, Radio, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Federal Communications Commission.

Katura Jackson,

Federal Register Liaison Officer.

Final Rules

For the reasons discussed in the preamble, the Federal Communications Commission amends 47 CFR part 90 as follows.

PART 90—PRIVATE LAND MOBILE RADIO SERVICES

■ 1. The authority citation for part 90 continues to read as follows.

Authority: 47 U.S.C. 154(i), 161, 303(g), 303(r), 332(c)(7), 1401–1473.

§ 90.175 [Amended]

■ 2. Amend § 90.175 by removing paragraph (k).

§ 90.621 [Amended]

■ 3. Amend § 90.621 by removing paragraph (d)(5).

[FR Doc. 2019–12984 Filed 6–20–19; 8:45 am]

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GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

48 CFR Part 6106

[CBCA Case 2019–61–01; Docket No. GSA–GSABCA–2019–0005; Sequence No. 1]

RIN 3090–AK07

Civilian Board of Contract Appeals; Rules of Procedure of the Civilian Board of Contract Appeals

AGENCY: Civilian Board of Contract Appeals; General Services Administration (GSA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Civilian Board of Contract Appeals (Board) amends its rules of procedure to include arbitration of disputes between applicants for public assistance grants and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding disasters after January 1, 2016. The Board is promulgating a final regulation after considering the one set of comments received on the proposed rules.

DATE: Effective July 22, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. James Johnson, Co-Chief Counsel, Civilian Board of Contract Appeals, 1800 M Street NW, Suite 600, Washington, DC 20036; at 202–606–8788; or email at jamesa.johnson@cbca.gov, for clarification of content. For information on status or publication schedules, contact the Regulatory Secretariat Division at 202–501–4755. Please cite CBCA Case 2019–61–01.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

A. Background

The Board was established within GSA by section 847 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2006, Public Law 109–163. Board members are administrative judges

appointed by the Administrator of General Services under 41 U.S.C. 7105(b)(2). The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, Public Law 115–254, amended the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), 42 U.S.C. 5189a(d), to authorize the Board to arbitrate certain disputes between FEMA and applicants for public assistance disaster grants.

The Board published in the **Federal Register** at 84 FR 7861, March 5, 2019, proposed rules of procedure for such arbitration. The notice invited comments on the proposed rules and announced the Board’s intention to promulgate final rules after reviewing and considering comments.

The comment period closed on May 6, 2019. The Board received one set of comments. The Board has considered those comments and revised the proposed rules as explained in part B below. The Board now promulgates final rules of procedure. These rules facilitate the efficient assembly of a record that will allow each arbitration panel to issue a just and reasoned decision resolving the dispute before it at the speedy pace that parties expect in arbitration.

B. Comments and Changes

FEMA was the only commenter. FEMA suggested specific changes to five proposed rules (Rules 603, 604, 606, 608, and 612). The Board addresses the comments as follows.

Comment: In proposed Rule 603, FEMA suggested replacing the words “final agency action” with “final agency determination” and adding the words “on an applicant’s eligibility for public assistance” to the end of the rule after the word “decision.”

Response: The Board does not adopt these suggestions. “Agency action” is a term of art for an administrative decision that is reviewable in court under the Administrative Procedure Act, 5 U.S.C. 702. The statement in Rule 603 that covered disputes “come to the Board prior to final agency action” is correct regardless of the terminology that FEMA may use for such actions. Adding words to the end of the rule also would not enhance clarity, as the first sentence already specifies “public assistance eligibility and repayment disputes” as the subject matter of arbitration.

Comment: In proposed Rule 604, FEMA suggested incorporating “nearly all of the content of 44 CFR 206.209(e)–(m),” FEMA’s regulation for arbitration of public assistance disputes involving Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, excluding paragraphs (e)(2) and (h)(3) of the FEMA regulation. FEMA identified no

substantive conflicts (as distinct from wording differences) between proposed Rule 604 and FEMA's Katrina/Rita arbitration regulation. FEMA noted that the proposed rules omit "a time to file an arbitration request."

Response: The proposed rules are already substantially consistent with FEMA's regulation, which states, "The arbitration will be conducted pursuant to procedure established by the arbitration panel." 44 CFR 206.209(c). As the designated arbitrator under 42 U.S.C. 5189a(d) of certain disputes regarding disasters after January 1, 2016, the Board is now adopting uniform panel procedures.

The omission of a time to file an arbitration request is intentional. The amended Stafford Act states that to request arbitration, an applicant for relief "shall submit the dispute to the arbitration process established" by FEMA for Katrina and Rita disputes. 42 U.S.C. 5189a(d)(5). The Board interprets the statutory term "process" to mean the steps established by FEMA for submitting a dispute to arbitration, including the timing and content of an arbitration request. The proposed rule thus defers to FEMA's current and future published guidance on those processing matters. After submittal, consistent with "the arbitration process" to which the Act refers, "[t]he arbitration will be conducted pursuant to procedure established by the arbitration panel." 44 CFR 206.209(c). The Act does not direct the Board to use arbitration *procedures* directly from FEMA's Katrina/Rita regulation.

The Board has carefully and independently considered the content of 44 CFR 206.209 in response to FEMA's comment. The Board agrees that its procedural rules should address the timing of a response by FEMA to an arbitration request, and ex parte contacts. The Board adds sentences to Rules 608 and 609 that track the substance of 44 CFR 206.209(e)(4) and (j). The Board also adds language to Rule 606 to clarify that the parties do not pay the Board for arbitration services.

Comment: To proposed Rule 606, FEMA proposed adding, "For each request, a decision under Rule 613 will be issued by the panel."

Response: The Board agrees that this sentence clarifies its intent, and includes it, slightly altered, in Rule 606.

Comment: In proposed Rule 608, FEMA objected to the statement that a panel will receive a response to new evidence "to the extent practicable." FEMA argued that it should "always" be entitled to file a response.

Response: The language at issue is important because the Stafford Act directs arbitrators to "consider from the applicant" (not from FEMA) supporting evidence submitted "at any time during arbitration." 42 U.S.C. 5189a(d)(2). Panels cannot necessarily obtain responses to all new evidence, up to and including the last day of arbitration. That is why the last sentence of Rule 608 warns that a panel may discount the "significance, weight, or probative value" of delayed or surprise evidence. As noted above, the final rule sets a time for FEMA's response to an arbitration request. The Board retains the limiting phrase "to the extent practicable" in Rule 608 for responses to later-offered evidence. Panels will decide practicability case by case.

Comment: In Rule 612, FEMA suggested deleting the first sentence, regarding statutory intent.

Response: The Board agrees and removes this sentence from Rule 612, adding the words "of streamlining" to the second sentence for clarity.

The final regulation includes changes discussed above as well as minor, non-substantive corrections of the proposed rules. The corrections are as follows.

In Rule 604, a citation to 44 CFR 206.209(e) is deleted from the first sentence, and the second sentence is deleted, as unnecessary. In Rule 605, the second "by" is deleted from the third sentence as unnecessary. In the sixth sentence of Rule 608, "before the close of arbitration" is shortened to "before arbitration closes." In the fourth sentence of Rule 610, a comma is deleted and the word "involuntary" is inserted before "prehearing" for clarity. In the seventh and eighth sentences of Rule 611, the word "to" is inserted in "or [to] make," and "made" is inserted before "subject to."

C. Regulatory Flexibility Act

GSA certifies that this final rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities within the meaning of the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 602 *et seq.*, and the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, Public Law 104-121, because the final rule does not impose any additional costs on small or large businesses.

D. Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, does not apply because this final rule does not impose any information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget.

E. Congressional Review Act

The final rule is exempt from Congressional review under Public Law 104-121 because it relates solely to agency organization, procedure, and practice and does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

F. Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

Executive Orders (E.O.s) 12866 and 13563 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including potential economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). E.O. 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, of reducing costs, of harmonizing rules, and of promoting flexibility. This is not a significant regulatory action and, therefore, was not subject to review under Section 6(b) of E.O. 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review, dated September 30, 1993, or E.O. 13563, Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review, dated January 18, 2011. This final rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804.

G. Executive Order 13771

This final rule is not an E.O. 13771 regulatory action because this rule is not significant under E.O. 12866.

List of Subjects in 48 CFR Part 6106

Administrative practice and procedure; Disaster relief.

Dated: June 14, 2019.

Jeri Kaylene Somers,

*Chair, Civilian Board of Contract Appeals,
General Services Administration.*

■ Therefore, GSA adds 48 CFR part 6106 to read as follows:

PART 6106—RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR ARBITRATION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE ELIGIBILITY OR REPAYMENT

Sec.

6106.601	Scope [Rule 601].
6106.602	Authority [Rule 602].
6106.603	Purpose [Rule 603].
6106.604	Arbitration request [Rule 604].
6106.605	Parties; representation; email service [Rule 605].
6106.606	Arbitrators; panels; costs [Rule 606].
6106.607	Initial conference [Rule 607].
6106.608	Evidence; timing [Rule 608].
6106.609	Other materials considered; ex parte communications [Rule 609].
6106.610	Motions [Rule 610].
6106.611	Hearing; live or paper [Rule 611].
6106.612	Streamlined procedures [Rule 612].

6106.613 Decision; finality [Rule 613].

Authority: 42 U.S.C. 5189a(d).

6106.601 Scope [Rule 601].

The rules in this part establish procedures for arbitration by the Board at the request of an applicant for public assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a disaster that occurred after January 1, 2016.

6106.602 Authority [Rule 602].

The Board is authorized by section 423 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), 42 U.S.C. 5189a(d), to arbitrate disputes between applicants and FEMA as to eligibility for public assistance (or repayment of past public assistance) for a disaster post-dating January 1, 2016, when the disputed amount exceeds \$500,000 or, for an applicant in a rural area, is at least \$100,000.

6106.603 Purpose [Rule 603].

Under the Stafford Act, the Board acts for the United States Government to resolve public assistance eligibility and repayment disputes by arbitration, a speedy and flexible method of impartial dispute resolution. Eligibility and repayment disputes come to the Board prior to final agency action by FEMA. An arbitration decision under these rules is the final action by the Executive Branch in a dispute. These rules facilitate the creation of an arbitration record sufficient to allow the Board to issue a prompt, just, and reasoned decision.

6106.604 Arbitration request [Rule 604].

(a) An applicant for public assistance may request arbitration by following applicable FEMA guidance implementing section 423 of the Stafford Act.

(b) Applicants shall efile arbitration requests with the Board as prescribed by Board Rule 1 (48 CFR 6101.1). Voluminous attachments may be filed separately in electronic media as if under Board Rule 4(b)(1) and (3) (48 CFR 6101.4(b)(1) and (3)). The Clerk of the Board will acknowledge an arbitration request by emailing the parties a docketing notice.

6106.605 Parties; representation; email service [Rule 605].

The parties to an arbitration are the applicant, the grantee (if not the applicant), and FEMA. Each party shall have one primary representative. This person need not be an attorney but must be authorized by law, formal delegation, or permission of the arbitrators to speak and act for the party in the arbitration.

Unless otherwise advised, the Board deems the person who signed the arbitration request to be the applicant's primary representative. Any other primary representative or other party representative shall promptly efile a notice of appearance complying with Board Rule 5(b) (48 CFR 6101.5(b)). Unless otherwise directed by the panel, a party shall email its efilings to every other party's primary representative at the time of filing.

6106.606 Arbitrators; panels; costs [Rule 606].

The Board assigns three judges as the panel of arbitrators for each request. A single arbitrator may act on behalf of a panel under Rules 607 and 611. A full panel issues any decision under Rule 613. The Board arbitrates at no cost to the parties, who bear their own costs of participation.

6106.607 Initial conference [Rule 607].

The panel will hold a telephonic scheduling conference with all parties as soon as practicable, ordinarily within 14 calendar days after the Clerk docketed an arbitration request. Each primary party representative shall participate in the conference. At least one panel member will preside. The panel will promptly issue to the parties a written summary of the conference and the schedule. A party has 5 calendar days from receipt of the panel's conference summary to efile any objection to it. The panel may hold and summarize other conferences as necessary.

6106.608 Evidence; timing [Rule 608].

No party is required to provide additional evidence. An applicant or grantee may, but need not, supplement materials it previously provided to FEMA regarding the dispute. A party may elect to present additional evidence, *i.e.*, documents, things, or testimony tending to make a factual contention appear more or less likely to be true. If a party so elects, the panel will to the extent practicable allow a response. FEMA shall efile its response to an arbitration request within 30 calendar days after receiving the docketing notice. A panel may not exclude as untimely evidence proffered before arbitration closes under Rule 613. A panel may consider the timing or surprise nature of evidence when assessing the significance, credibility, or probative value of the evidence.

6106.609 Other materials considered; ex parte communications [Rule 609].

Written or oral arguments or statements of experts as to how a panel should understand evidence or apply the law are not evidence but may be

presented as scheduled by the panel and may be subject to page, word, or time limits. By the close of arbitration under Rule 613, parties should provide the panel with everything it needs to make a decision. Documents written by a party for the panel during arbitration shall comply with Board Rules 1(b) ("Efiles; efilings"), 7, and 23 (48 CFR 6101.1(b), 6101.7, and 6101.23). No member of a panel or of the Board's staff will communicate with a party about any material issue in arbitration outside of the presence of the other party or parties, and no one shall attempt such communications on behalf of a party.

6106.610 Motions [Rule 610].

Motions are strictly limited and should ordinarily be made orally during the initial conference under Rule 607. A later motion may be efiled. A party may make a procedural motion, such as to extend time. An applicant may move for voluntary dismissal. No party may move for a prehearing merits decision (*e.g.*, summary judgment or dismissal for failure to state a claim) or for involuntary prehearing dismissal other than on the merits except on the grounds that an arbitration request is untimely. A panel ordinarily issues one decision per arbitration.

6106.611 Hearing; live or paper [Rule 611].

Parties may conclude arbitration by presenting their positions in a hearing. A hearing may be live or, if agreed by all parties, on a written record (a "paper hearing") or a combination of the two. The panel will begin a hearing within 60 calendar days after the initial conference under Rule 607 unless the Board Chair approves a later date. All panel members will attend a live hearing in Washington, DC. A single panel member may conduct a live hearing elsewhere. Hearing procedures are at the panel's discretion, with the goal of promptly, justly, and finally resolving the dispute, and need not involve traditional witness examination or cross-examination. Parties should not offer fact witnesses to read legal materials or to make legal arguments. Statements of fact in a hearing need not be sworn but are made subject to penalty for violation of 18 U.S.C. 1001. Live hearings are not public and may not be recorded by any means without the Board's permission. The Board may have a live hearing transcribed for the panel's use. If a transcript is made, a party may purchase a copy and has 7 calendar days after a copy is available to efile proposed corrections.

6106.612 Streamlined procedures [Rule 612].

The Board encourages parties to focus on providing only the information a panel needs to resolve an eligibility or repayment dispute. Examples of streamlining may include without limitation—

(a) Electing not to supplement the materials already provided to FEMA, if (or to the extent) the existing record adequately frames the dispute;

(b) Relying when possible on documents over other types of evidence;

(c) Simplifying live hearings by filing in advance written testimony, reports, or opening statements by some witnesses or party representatives;

(d) Refraining from objecting to evidence without good cause; and

(e) Omitting duplicative and immaterial evidence and arguments.

6106.613 Decision; finality [Rule 613].

The panel will advise the parties when the arbitration is closed. The panel will resolve a dispute within 60 calendar days thereafter unless the panel advises the parties that the Board Chair approves a later date. The panel's decision may be issued in writing or orally with transcription. A decision is primarily for the parties, is not precedential, and should concisely resolve the dispute. The decision of a panel majority is the final administrative action on the arbitrated dispute and is judicially reviewable only to the limited extent provided by the Federal Arbitration Act (9 U.S.C. 10). Within 30 calendar days after issuing a decision, a panel may correct clerical, typographical, technical, or arithmetic errors. A panel may not reconsider the merits of its decision resolving an eligibility or repayment dispute.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration****50 CFR Part 635**

[Docket No. 120627194-3657-02]

RIN 0648-XT002

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; North Atlantic Swordfish Fishery

AGENCY: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Commerce.

ACTION: Temporary rule.

SUMMARY: NMFS is adjusting the Swordfish General Commercial permit retention limits for the Northwest Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Caribbean regions for July through December of the 2019 fishing year, unless otherwise later noticed. The Swordfish General Commercial permit retention limits in each of these regions are increased from the regulatory default limits (either two or three fish) to six swordfish per vessel per trip. The Swordfish General Commercial permit retention limit in the Florida Swordfish Management Area will remain unchanged at the default limit of zero swordfish per vessel per trip, as discussed in more detail below. These adjustments apply to Swordfish General Commercial permitted vessels and to Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Charter/Headboat permitted vessels with a commercial endorsement when on a non-for-hire trip. This action is based upon consideration of the applicable inseason regional retention limit adjustment criteria.

DATES: The adjusted Swordfish General Commercial permit retention limits in the Northwest Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, and U.S. Caribbean regions are effective from July 1, 2019, through December 31, 2019.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Rick Pearson or Randy Blankinship, 727-824-5399.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Regulations implemented under the authority of the Atlantic Tunas Convention Act (ATCA; 16 U.S.C. 971 *et seq.*) and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act; 16 U.S.C. 1801 *et seq.*) governing the harvest of North Atlantic swordfish by persons and vessels subject to U.S. jurisdiction are found at 50 CFR part 635. Section 635.27 subdivides the U.S. North Atlantic swordfish quota recommended by the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) and implemented by the United States into two equal semi-annual directed fishery quotas; an annual incidental catch quota for fishermen targeting other species or catching swordfish recreationally, and a reserve category, according to the allocations established in the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan (2006 Consolidated Atlantic HMS FMP) (71 FR 58058, October 2, 2006), as amended, and in accordance with implementing regulations. NMFS is required under ATCA and the Magnuson-Stevens Act to provide U.S. fishing vessels with a

reasonable opportunity to harvest the ICCAT-recommended quota.

In 2017, ICCAT Recommendation 17-02 specified that the overall North Atlantic swordfish total allowable catch (TAC) be set at 9,925 metric tons (mt) dressed weight (dw) (13,200 mt whole weight (ww)) through 2021. Consistent with scientific advice, this was a reduction of 500 mt ww (375.9 mt dw) from previous ICCAT-recommended TACs. However, the United States' baseline quota remained at 2,937.6 mt dw (3,907 mt ww) per year. The Recommendation (17-02) also continued to limit underharvest carryover to 15 percent of a contracting party's baseline quota. Thus, the United States may carry over a maximum of 440.6 mt dw (586.0 mt ww) of underharvest. Absent adjustments, the codified baseline quota is 2,937.6 mt dw for 2019. At this time, given the extent of underharvest in 2018, NMFS anticipates carrying over the maximum allowable 15 percent (440.6 mt dw), which would result in a final adjusted North Atlantic swordfish quota for the 2019 fishing year equal to 3,378.2 mt dw (2,937.6 + 440.6 = 3,378.2 mt dw). As in past years we anticipate allocating 50 mt dw from the adjusted quota to the Reserve category for inseason adjustments/research and allocating 300 mt dw to the Incidental category, which includes recreational landings and landings by incidental swordfish permit holders, consistent with § 635.27(c)(1)(i)(D) and (B). This would result in an adjusted quota of 3,028.2 mt dw for the directed fishery, which would be split equally (1,514.1 mt dw) between the two semi-annual periods in 2019 (January through June, and July through December).

Adjustment of Swordfish General Commercial Permit Vessel Retention Limits

The 2019 North Atlantic swordfish fishing year, which is managed on a calendar-year basis and divided into two equal semi-annual quotas for the directed fishery, began on January 1, 2019. Landings attributable to the Swordfish General Commercial permit count against the applicable semi-annual directed fishery quota. Regional default retention limits for this permit have been established and are automatically effective from January 1 through December 31 each year, unless changed based on the inseason regional retention limit adjustment criteria at § 635.24(b)(4)(iv). The default retention limits established for the Swordfish General Commercial permit are: (1) Northwest Atlantic region—three swordfish per vessel per trip; (2) Gulf of