

§ 221.26

(c) *Witnesses and exhibits.* NOAA's answer must also list the witnesses and exhibits that it intends to present at the hearing, other than solely for impeachment purposes.

(1) For each witness listed, NOAA must provide:

(i) His or her name, address, telephone number, and qualifications; and

(ii) A brief narrative summary of his or her expected testimony.

(2) For each exhibit listed, NOAA must specify whether it is in the license proceeding record.

(d) *Page limits.* (1) For each disputed factual issue, the information provided under paragraph (b)(1) of this section may not exceed two pages.

(2) For each witness, the information provided under paragraph (c)(1) of this section may not exceed one page.

(e) *Notice in lieu of answer.* If NOAA elects not to file an answer to a hearing request:

(1) NOAA is deemed to agree that the issues listed by the requester are factual, material, and in dispute;

(2) NOAA may file a list of witnesses and exhibits with respect to the request only as provided in § 221.42(b); and

(3) NOAA must file a notice containing the information required by paragraph (b)(2) of this section, if the hearing request will be consolidated with one or more other hearing requests under § 221.23, and the statement required by paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

§ 221.26 What will the Office of Habitat Conservation do with any hearing requests?

(a) *Case referral.* Within 55 days after the deadline in § 221.21(a)(2) or 35 days after the expiration of any stay period under § 221.24, whichever is later, the Office of Habitat Conservation will refer the case for a hearing as follows:

(1) If the hearing is to be conducted by NOAA, the Office of Habitat Conservation will refer the case to the Department of Commerce's designated ALJ office.

(2) If the hearing is to be conducted by another Department, the Office of Habitat Conservation will refer the case to the hearings component used by that Department.

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(b) *Content.* The case referral will consist of the following:

(1) Two copies of any preliminary condition or prescription under § 221.20;

(2) The original and one copy of any hearing request under § 221.21;

(3) The original and one copy of any notice of intervention and response under § 221.22;

(4) The original and one copy of any answer under § 221.25; and

(5) The original and one copy of a referral notice under paragraph (c) of this section.

(c) *Notice.* At the time the Office of Habitat Conservation refers the case for a hearing, it must provide a referral notice that contains the following information:

(1) The name, address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the Department hearings component that will conduct the hearing;

(2) The name, address, and other contact information for the representative of each party to the hearing process;

(3) An identification of any other hearing request that will be consolidated with this hearing request; and

(4) The effective date of the case referral to the appropriate Department hearings component.

(d) *Delivery and service.* (1) The Office of Habitat Conservation must refer the case to the appropriate Department hearings component by one of the methods identified in § 221.12(b)(1)(i) and (b)(1)(ii).

(2) The Office of Habitat Conservation must serve a copy of the referral notice on FERC and each party to the hearing by one of the methods identified in § 221.13(c)(1) and (c)(2).

§ 221.27 What regulations apply to a case referred for a hearing?

(a) If the Office of Habitat Conservation refers the case to the Department of Commerce's designated ALJ office, the regulations in this subpart will continue to apply to the hearing process.

(b) If the Office of Habitat Conservation refers the case to the United States Department of Agriculture's Office of Administrative Law Judges, the regulations at 7 CFR 1.601 *et seq.* will apply from that point on.