

(1) Any employee or contractor of the Department acting in an official capacity; or

(2) A person who intends to cross examine a witness at the hearing and has notified the person named in the notice of hearing by specified dates of his or her intent to participate in the hearing as a “party” pursuant to § 1.804.

Proceeding means a proceeding before the Secretary arising under a statute in which the Secretary uses formal rulemaking procedures as set forth in this subpart.

Secretary means the Secretary of Agriculture of the United States, or any officer or employee of the Department to whom authority has heretofore been delegated, or to whom authority may hereafter be delegated, to act for the Secretary.

Witness means any person who:

(1) Has notified the person named in the notice of hearing by the specified date of his or her intent to participate in the hearing as a witness pursuant to § 1.804; and

(2) Who submits written direct testimony on the proposed regulations pursuant to § 1.807; and

(3) Testifies orally at the hearing.

[82 FR 51149, Nov. 3, 2017, as amended at 84 FR 51939, Oct. 1, 2019]

§ 1.803 Institution of proceedings.

(a) *Filing and contents of the notice of hearing.* A proceeding under this subpart shall be instituted by the Secretary or designee through filing the notice of hearing with the hearing clerk. The notice of hearing shall state:

(1) The legal authority under which the rule is proposed.

(2) The scope and nature of the hearing, including witness instructions for testifying, including the means and timing of the submission of pre-hearing documents, and scheduling, as necessary.

(3) The terms or substance of the proposed rule or a description of the subjects and issues involved.

(4) The time and place of such hearing.

(5) The final date for notification of intent to participate as a party or witness in the hearing pursuant to § 1.804.

(6) The person to whom notification of intent to participate as a party or

witness is to be provided pursuant to § 1.804, and the means by which such notifications are to be provided.

(7) Any alternative procedures established pursuant to paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) *Giving notice of hearing.* (1) The Administrator shall give or cause to be given notice of hearing in the following manner:

(i) By publication of the notice of hearing in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(ii) By posting of the notice of hearing to the USDA Web site.

(2) Legal notice of the hearing shall be deemed to be given if notice is given in the manner provided by paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section.

(c) *Record of notice.* A copy of the notice of hearing published in the FEDERAL REGISTER pursuant to paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section shall be filed with the hearing clerk and submitted to the Judge at the hearing.

(d) *Alternative procedures.* The Administrator may establish alternative procedures for the proceeding that are in addition to or in lieu of one or more procedures in this subpart, provided that the procedures are consistent with 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557. The alternative procedures must be described in the notice of hearing, as required in paragraph (a)(7) of this section.

§ 1.804 Notification by interested persons.

(a) Any person desiring to participate as a party or witness at the hearing shall notify the person named in the notice of hearing, as prescribed in the notice of hearing, on or before the date specified in the notice of hearing. A person may be both a party and a witness.

(b) The notification must clearly state whether the interested person is participating at the hearing as a party, witness, or both.

(c) If a party or witness will be participating with or through a representative or counsel, the notification must so state and provide the name of the representative or counsel.

(d) Persons who fail to comply with this section and any specified instructions in the notice of hearing shall be deemed to have waived their right to participate in the hearing. Failure to

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comply with this section shall result in the exclusion of any filed written testimony.

§ 1.805 Docket number.

Each proceeding, immediately following its institution, shall be assigned a docket number by the hearing clerk and thereafter the proceeding may be referred to by such number.

§ 1.806 Judge.

(a) *Assignment.* No Judge who has any pecuniary interest in the outcome of a proceeding shall serve as Judge in such proceeding.

(b) *Power of Judge.* Subject to review by the Secretary, as provided elsewhere in this subpart, the Judge in any proceeding shall have power to:

- (1) Rule upon motions and requests;
- (2) Change the time and place of hearings, and adjourn the hearing from time to time or from place to place;
- (3) Administer oaths and affirmations and take affidavits;
- (4) Examine and cross-examine witnesses and receive evidence;
- (5) Admit or exclude evidence;
- (6) Hear oral argument on facts or law; and
- (7) Do all acts and take all measures necessary for the maintenance of order at the hearings and the efficient conduct of the proceeding.

(c) *Who may act in absence of the Judge.* In case of the absence of the Judge or that Judge's inability to act, the powers and duties to be performed by the Judge under this subpart in connection with a proceeding may, without abatement of the proceeding unless otherwise ordered by the Secretary, be assigned to any other Judge.

(d) *Disqualification of Judge.* The Judge may at any time withdraw as Judge in a proceeding if such Judge deems himself or herself to be disqualified. Upon the filing by an interested person in good faith of a timely and sufficient affidavit of personal bias or disqualification of a Judge, the Secretary shall determine the matter as a part of the record and decision in the proceeding, after making such investigation or holding such hearings, or both, as the Secretary may deem appropriate in the circumstances.

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§ 1.807 Direct testimony submitted as written documents.

Any person desiring to participate as a witness at the hearing shall submit direct testimony as written documents as prescribed by the following:

(a) Direct testimony by a witness, including accompanying exhibits, must be submitted as specified in the notice of the hearing pursuant to § 1.803. Exhibits constituting part of such direct testimony, referred to in the direct testimony and made a part thereof must be attached to the direct testimony. Direct testimony submitted with exhibits must state the issue(s) to which the exhibit relates; if no such statement is made, the Judge, at the hearing, shall determine the relevance of the exhibit to the issues published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) The direct testimony submitted shall contain:

(1) A concise statement of the witness' interest in the proceeding and his or her position regarding the issues presented. If the direct testimony is presented by a witness who is not a party, the witness shall state the witness' relationship to the party on behalf of whom the testimony is proffered; and

(2) Facts that are relevant and material.

(c) Copies of all direct testimony, including accompanying exhibits, must be submitted as prescribed by the notice of hearing.

(d) Upon receipt, direct testimony shall be assigned a number and stamped with that number and the docket number.

§ 1.808 Motions and requests.

(a) *General.* (1) Parties shall file all motions and requests with the hearing clerk except that those made during the course of the hearing may be filed with the Judge or may be stated orally and made a part of the transcript.

(2) Except as provided in § 1.816(b), such motions and requests shall be addressed to, and ruled on by, the Judge if made prior to certification of the transcript pursuant to § 1.811 or by the Secretary if made thereafter.

(b) *Certification to Secretary.* The Judge may, in his or her discretion, submit or certify to the Secretary for