

conference or the first day of evidentiary hearings.

(iii) If, in a proceeding, or part of a proceeding, that is set for hearing under subpart E, a written amendment is filed after the time for filing provided under paragraph (a)(3)(ii) of this section, or if an oral amendment is made to a presiding officer during a hearing or conference, the amendment becomes effective as an amendment only as provided under paragraph (d) of this section.

(b) *Answers.* Any participant, or any person who has filed a timely motion to intervene which has not been denied, may answer a written or oral amendment in accordance with Rule 213.

(c) *Motion opposing an amendment.* Any participant, or any person who has filed a timely motion to intervene which has not been denied, may file a motion opposing the acceptance of any amendment, other than an amendment under paragraph (a)(3)(i) of this section, not later than 15 days after the filing of the amendment.

(d) *Acceptance of amendments.* (1) An amendment becomes effective as an amendment at the end of 15 days from the date of filing, if no motion in opposition to the acceptance of an amendment under paragraph (a)(3)(iii) of this section is filed within the 15 day period.

(2) If a motion in opposition to the acceptance of an amendment is filed within 15 days after the filing of the amendment, the amendment becomes effective as an amendment on the twentieth day after the filing of the amendment, except to the extent that the decisional authority, before such date, issues an order rejecting the amendment, wholly or in part, for good cause.

(e) *Directed amendments.* A decisional authority, on motion or otherwise, may direct any participant, or any person seeking to be a party, to file a written amendment to amplify, clarify, or technically correct a pleading.

§ 385.216 Withdrawal of pleadings (Rule 216).

(a) *Filing.* Any participant, or any person who has filed a timely motion to intervene which has not been denied,

may seek to withdraw a pleading by filing a notice of withdrawal.

(b) *Action on withdrawals.* (1) The withdrawal of any pleading is effective at the end of 15 days from the date of filing of a notice of withdrawal, if no motion in opposition to the notice of withdrawal is filed within that period and the decisional authority does not issue an order disallowing the withdrawal within that period. The decisional authority may disallow, for a good cause, all or part of a withdrawal.

(2) If a motion in opposition to a notice of withdrawal is filed within the 15 day period, the withdrawal is not effective until the decisional authority issues an order accepting the withdrawal.

(c) *Conditional withdrawal.* In order to prevent prejudice to other participants, a decisional authority may, on motion or otherwise, condition the withdrawal of any pleading upon a requirement that the withdrawing party leave material in the record or otherwise make material available to other participants.

§ 385.217 Summary disposition (Rule 217).

(a) *Applicability.* This section applies to:

(1) Any proceeding, or any part of a proceeding, while the Commission is the decisional authority; and

(2) Any proceeding, or part of a proceeding, which is set for hearing under subpart E.

(b) *General rule.* If the decisional authority determines that there is no genuine issue of fact material to the decision of a proceeding or part of a proceeding, the decisional authority may summarily dispose of all or part of the proceeding.

(c) *Procedures.* (1) Any participant may make a motion for summary disposition of all or part of a proceeding.

(2) If a decisional authority, other than the Commission, is considering summary disposition of a proceeding, or part of a proceeding, in the absence of a motion for summary disposition by a participant, the decisional authority

will grant the participants an opportunity to comment on the proposed disposition prior to any summary disposition, unless, for good cause shown, the decisional authority provides otherwise.

(3) If, prior to setting a matter for hearing, the Commission is considering summary disposition of a proceeding or part of a proceeding in the absence of a motion for summary disposition by any participant and the Commission determines that notice and comment on summary disposition are practicable and necessary, the Commission may notify the participants and afford them an opportunity to comment on any proposed summary disposition.

(d) *Disposition.* (1)(i) If a decisional authority, other than the Commission, summarily disposes of an entire proceeding, the decisional authority will issue an initial decision for the entire proceeding.

(ii) Except as provided under paragraph (d)(1)(iii) of this section, a decisional authority, other than the Commission, which summarily disposes of part of a proceeding may:

(A) Issue a partial initial decision; or

(B) Postpone issuing an initial decision on the summarily disposed part and combine it with the initial decision on the entire proceeding or other appropriate part of the proceeding.

(iii) If the decisional authority, other than the Commission, summarily disposes of part of a proceeding and such disposition requires the filing of new tariff or rate schedule sheets, the decisional authority will issue an initial decision on that part of the proceeding.

(2) Any initial decision issued under paragraph (d)(1) of this section is considered an initial decision issued under subpart G of this part, except that the following rules do not apply: Rule 704 (rights of participants before initial decision), Rule 705 (discretion of presiding officer before initial decision), Rule 706 (initial and reply briefs before initial decision), Rule 707 (oral argument before initial decision), and Rule 709 (other types of decisions).

[Order 225, 47 FR 19022, May 3, 1982; Order 225-A, 47 FR 35956, Aug. 18, 1982]

§ 385.218 Simplified procedure for complaints involving small controversies (Rule 218).

(a) *Eligibility.* The procedures under this section are available to complainants if the amount in controversy is less than \$100,000 and the impact on other entities is *de minimis*.

(b) *Contents.* A complaint filed under this section must contain:

(1) The name of the complainant;

(2) The name of the respondent;

(3) A description of the relationship to the respondent;

(4) The amount in controversy;

(5) A statement why the complaint will have a *de minimis* impact on other entities;

(6) The facts and circumstances surrounding the complaint, including the legal or regulatory obligation breached by the respondent; and

(7) The requested relief.

(c) *Service.* The complainant is required to simultaneously serve the complaint on the respondent and any other entity referenced in the complaint.

(d) *Notice.* Public notice of the complaint will be issued by the Commission.

(e) *Answers, interventions and comments.* (1) An answer to a complaint is required to conform to the requirements of § 385.213(c)(1), (2), and (3).

(2) Answers, interventions and comments must be filed within 10 days after the complaint is filed. In cases where the complainant requests privileged treatment for information in its complaint, answers, interventions, and comments must be filed within 20 days after the complaint is filed. In the event there is an objection to the protective agreement, the Commission will establish when answers, interventions, and comments are due.

(f) *Privileged treatment.* If a complainant seeks privileged treatment for any documents submitted with the complaint, a complainant must use the procedures described in section 385.206(e). If a respondent seeks privileged treatment for any documents submitted with the answer, a respondent must use the procedures described in section 385.213(c)(5).

[Order 602, 64 FR 17099, Apr. 8, 1999]