

PART 143—COLLECTION OF CLAIMS OWED THE UNITED STATES ARISING FROM ACTIVITIES UNDER THE COMMISSION'S JURISDICTION

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AUTHORITY: 7 U.S.C. 9 and 15, 9a, 12a(5), 13a, 13a-1(d) and 13(a); 31 U.S.C. 3701-3719; 28 U.S.C. 2461 note.

SOURCE: 50 FR 5384, Feb. 8, 1985, unless otherwise noted.

§ 143.1 Purpose.

This part implements the Federal Claims Collection Act, as amended by the Debt Collection Act, 31 U.S.C. 3701-3719, and interpreted by the Department of Justice and General Accounting Office in the Federal Claims Collection Standards (4 CFR parts 101-105), and the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 as amended by the Debt Collection Improvement Act of 1996. This part provides procedures which the Commission will use to collect claims owed the United States arising from activities under the Commission's jurisdiction, including amounts due the United States from fees, fines, civil penalties, damages, interest and other sources. This part further sets forth procedures for the Commission to determine and collect interest, penalties, and administrative costs on unpaid claims and to refer unpaid claims for litigation. This part also sets forth the maximum inflation-adjusted civil monetary penalties that may be assessed and enforced against persons for violations of the Commodity Exchange Act or regulations thereunder.

[61 FR 55566, Oct. 28, 1996]

§ 143.2 Notice of claim.

(a) The Commission will send a written notice to any person who owes pay-

ment to the United States under this part, stating the basis for the claim, the interest, penalties, and administrative costs that may be imposed for non-payment, and the date full payment is due.

(b) If the claim is disputed, the debtor shall respond to the notice in writing and state the reasons for non-payment. If the claim is not disputed but full payment is not made by the date indicated in the notice, the debtor shall state the reasons for the failure to make full payment.

(c) If no response or an unsatisfactory response is received by the date indicated in the notice, the Commission may take any further action appropriate under the Commodity Exchange Act or regulations thereunder, or under 4 CFR parts 101-105 and the Federal Claims Collection Act, as amended, 31 U.S.C. 3701-3719.

§ 143.3 Interest, penalty charges, and administrative costs.

(a) The Commission will assess interest on unpaid claims. The rate of interest assessed shall be the rate of the current value of funds to the U.S. Treasury (*i.e.*, the Treasury tax and loan account rate) as prescribed and published by the Secretary of the Treasury. The Commission will charge penalty fees of not more than 6 percent per year on any portion of a claim that is delinquent for more than 90 days. The Commission will also impose actual administrative costs to cover the processing and handling of delinquent claims.

(b) Interest on claims will be charged and will run from the date the notice of claim is mailed if the amount of the claim is not paid within 30 days from that date. Interest will be calculated only on the principal of the claim. The rate of interest charged is the rate in effect on the date from which interest begins to run. The rate will remain fixed for the duration of the indebtedness.

(c) The Commission may waive in whole or in part interest, penalty charges or administrative costs if it finds that:

(1) The debtor is unable to pay any significant sum within a reasonable period of time;