

or, in his discretion, refer it to the General Counsel for resolution pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section.

(i) The filing of any claim under this section, other than a claim of document protection under paragraph (d) of this section, shall stay the time for meeting any information required to which the claim relates, but shall not stay the periods for processing and review of an application unless the Secretary determines that compliance with the requirement is material to processing of the application within the time prescribed in the Act. If the Secretary determines that it is material, he may suspend the application pending a determination that processing can be resumed. The period of any suspension shall not be counted in determining the date prescribed by the time limit set forth in section 4(c)(6), 5(d)(3), 5(e)(2), 5(g), 7(b)(11) or 9(b)(1) of the Act.

(j) Any determination by the General Counsel under paragraph (f) of this section may be appealed to the Secretary for good cause shown.

INFORMAL PUBLIC HEARING

§ 148.231 Notice of public hearing.

After all applications in a proceeding are docketed, the Commandant issues a notice of public hearing and mails or delivers it to any person who requests it and to each applicant and adjacent coastal state. The clerk docketed the notice when it is published. Each notice shows the time and place for the hearings, formulates the factual issues in the proceeding, procedural matters to govern the hearings, and designates the presiding officer assigned by the Commandant for the hearing.

§ 148.233 Testimony and argument.

Interested persons may attend any public hearing, present relevant material at the hearing, and submit briefs and oral argument at a time determined by the presiding officer during the hearing.

§ 148.235 Report of public hearing.

As soon as practicable after a public hearing is completed, the presiding officer forwards a report of the hearing to the clerk for docketing. The report

at a minimum contains a summary of the materials presented and factual issues raised at the hearing and has attached to it a transcript of the hearing and all relevant materials and briefs submitted to the presiding officer. The presiding officer determines and announces to the participants during the course of the hearing what material will be attached to the report.

FORMAL HEARING

§ 148.251 Determination to hold formal hearing: notice of formal hearing.

(a) After the reports of public hearings are docketed in a proceeding, the Commandant determines whether there are specific and material factual issues concerning the applications that may be resolved by a formal hearing. If he determines that a formal hearing is necessary, he issues notice of formal hearing to the applicants, the application staff, and the administrative law judge.

(b) A notice of formal hearing lists the factual issues for resolution at the hearing, the applicants, and the administrative law judge assigned to conduct the hearing.

(c) The clerk mails or delivers a copy of the notice of formal hearing in a proceeding to each adjacent coastal state and to each person who requests notice of formal hearing.

§ 148.253 Assignment of administrative law judge: disqualification.

(a) The Commandant assigns the administrative law judge for a formal hearing.

(b) The administrative law judge may disqualify himself at any time after assignment by filing notice of withdrawal from the proceeding. If on motion of a party the administrative law judge does not disqualify himself, the party may appeal the ruling to the Commandant by filing notice of appeal within seven days after the ruling on the motion. A brief may be filed with the notice of appeal.

(c) If the assigned administrative law judge becomes unavailable during the proceeding, another administrative law judge is assigned.