

(b) *Effect of substantial compliance.* No adjudication of grazing preference will be set aside on appeal, if it appears that it is reasonable and that it represents a substantial compliance with the provisions of part 4100 of this title.

Subpart F—Implementation of the Equal Access to Justice Act in Agency Proceedings

AUTHORITY: Sec. 203(a)(1), Pub. L. 96-481, 94 Stat. 2325 (5 U.S.C. 504(c)(1)).

SOURCE: 48 FR 17596, Apr. 25, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§ 4.601 Purpose of these rules.

These rules are adopted by the Department of the Interior pursuant to section 504 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by section 203(a)(1) of the Equal Access to Justice Act, Pub. L. 96-481. Under the Act, an eligible party may receive an award for attorney fees and other expenses when it prevails over the Department in an adversary adjudication under 5 U.S.C. 554 before the Office of Hearings and Appeals, unless the Department's position as a party to the proceeding was substantially justified or special circumstances make an award unjust. The purpose of these rules is to establish procedures for the submission and consideration of applications for awards against the Department.

§ 4.602 Definitions.

As used in this part:

(a) *The Act* means section 504 of title 5, United States Code, as amended by section 203(a)(1) of the Equal Access to Justice Act, Pub. L. 96-481.

(b) *Adversary adjudication* means an adjudication under 5 U.S.C. 554 in which the position of the United States is represented by counsel or otherwise, but excludes an adjudication for the purpose of establishing or fixing a rate or for the purpose of granting or renewing a license.

(c) *Adjudicative officer* means the official who presided at the adversary adjudication.

(d) *Department* refers to the Department of the Interior or the relevant de-

partment component which is a party to the adversary adjudication (e.g., Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement or Bureau of Land Management).

(e) *Proceeding* means an adversary adjudication as defined in § 4.602(b).

(f) *Party* includes a person or agency named or admitted as a party, or properly seeking and entitled as of right to be admitted as a party, in an agency proceeding, and a person or agency admitted by an agency as a party for limited purposes.

§ 4.603 Proceedings covered.

(a) These rules apply to adversary adjudications required by statute to be conducted by the Secretary under 5 U.S.C. 554. Specifically, these rules apply to adjudications conducted by the Office of Hearings and Appeals under 5 U.S.C. 554 which are required by statute to be determined on the record after opportunity for an agency hearing. These rules do not apply where adjudications on the record are not required by statute even though hearings are conducted using procedures comparable to those set forth in 5 U.S.C. 554.

(b) If a proceeding includes both matters covered by the Act and matters specifically excluded from coverage, any award made will include only fees and expenses related to covered matters.

§ 4.604 Applicability to Department of the Interior proceedings.

The Act applies to any adversary adjudication pending before the Office of Hearings and Appeals of the Department of the Interior at any time between October 1, 1981, and September 30, 1984. This includes proceedings begun before October 1, 1981, if final Departmental action has not been taken before that date, and proceedings pending on September 30, 1984.

§ 4.605 Eligibility of applicants.

(a) To be eligible for an award of attorney fees and other expenses under the Act, the applicant must be a party prevailing over the Department in the adversary adjudication for which it seeks an award. The applicant must