

Environmental Protection Agency

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when used in accordance with widespread and commonly recognized practice, it will or will not generally cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment.

(b) *Amendment to statement of issues.* The statement of issues may be amended or enlarged by the Administrator at any time prior to the commencement of the public hearing. If the Administrative Law Judge determines that additional time is necessary to permit a party to prepare for matters raised by amendments or enlargements to the statement of issues, the commencement of the hearing shall be delayed for an appropriate period.

§ 164.24 Response to the Administrator's notice of intention to hold a hearing.

Any person wishing to participate in any proceeding commenced pursuant to any notice by the Administrator of intention to hold a hearing, shall file with the hearing clerk, within the time set by the Administrator in the notice (in no case less than 30 days from the date of the notice), a written response to the statement of issues which shall include the position and interest of such person with respect thereto. If any such person is a registrant or an applicant for registration, he shall also file the registration number of the pesticide, if applicable, a copy of the currently accepted and/or proposed labeling and a list of the currently registered or proposed uses of said pesticide.

§ 164.25 Filing copies of notification of intent to cancel registration or change classification or refusal to register, and statement of issues.

After a copy of the document setting forth the objections and requesting a public hearing is filed with the hearing clerk or a response to the statement of issues is filed, the hearing clerk shall serve a copy of the document upon Respondent and the Office of the General Counsel of the Agency. Respondent shall, by counsel, thereupon file with the hearing clerk a copy of the appropriate notice of intention to cancel, the notice of intention to change the classification or the registration refusal order.

APPEARANCES, INTERVENTION, AND CONSOLIDATION

§ 164.30 Appearances.

Representatives. Parties may appear in person or by counsel or other representative. Persons who appear as counsel or in a representative capacity must conform to the standards of ethical conduct required of practitioners before the courts of the United States.

§ 164.31 Intervention.

(a) *Motion.* Any person may file a motion for leave to intervene in a hearing conducted under this subpart. A motion must set forth the grounds for the proposed intervention, the position and interest of the movant in the proceeding and the documents proposed to be filed pursuant to either § 164.22 or § 164.24.

(b) *When filed.* A motion for leave to intervene in a hearing must ordinarily be filed prior to the commencement of the first prehearing conference. Any motion filed after that time must contain, in addition to the information set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, a statement of good cause for the failure to file the motion prior to the commencement of the first prehearing conference, and shall be granted only upon a finding (1) that extraordinary circumstances justify the granting of the motion, or (2) that the intervenor shall be bound by agreements, arrangements, and other matters previously made in the proceeding.

(c) *Disposition.* Leave to intervene will be freely granted but only insofar as such leave raises matters which are pertinent to and do not unreasonably broaden the issues already presented. If leave is granted, the movant shall thereby become a party with the full status of the original parties to the proceedings. If leave is denied, the movant may request that the ruling be certified to the Environmental Appeals Board, pursuant to § 164.100 for a speedy appeal.

(d) *Amicus curiae.* Persons not parties to the proceedings wishing to file briefs may do so by leave of the Administrative Law Judge granted on motion. A motion for leave shall identify the interest of the applicant and shall state the reasons why the proposed amicus

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brief is desirable. Unless all parties otherwise consent, an amicus curiae shall file its brief within the time allowed the party whose position the brief will support. Upon a showing of good cause, the Administrator or Administrative Law Judge may grant permission for later filing.

[38 FR 19371, July 20, 1973, as amended at 57 FR 5342, Feb. 13, 1992]

§ 164.32 Consolidation.

The Chief Administrative Law Judge, by motion or sua sponte, may consolidate two or more proceedings whenever it appears that this will expedite or simplify consideration of the issues. Consolidation shall not affect the right of any party to raise issues that could have been raised if consolidation had not occurred. At the conclusion of proceedings consolidated under this section, the Administrative Law Judge shall issue one decision under §164.90 unless one or more of the consolidated proceedings have been dismissed pursuant to §164.91.

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE

§ 164.40 Qualifications and duties of Administrative Law Judge.

(a) *Qualifications.* The Administrative Law Judge shall have the qualifications required by statute. He shall not decide any matter in connection with a proceeding where he has a financial interest in any of the parties or a relationship with a party that would make it otherwise inappropriate for him to act.

(b) *Disqualification of the Administrative Law Judge.* (1) Any party may, by motion made to the Administrative Law Judge, as soon as practicable, request that he disqualify himself and withdraw from the proceeding. The Administrative Law Judge shall then rule upon the motion and, upon request of the movant, shall certify an adverse ruling for appeal.

(2) *Withdrawal sua sponte.* The Administrative Law Judge may at any time withdraw from any proceedings in which he deems himself disqualified for any reason.

(c) *Conduct.* The Administrative Law Judge shall conduct the proceeding in a fair and impartial manner subject to

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the precepts of the Canons of Judicial Ethics of the American Bar Association.

(d) *Power.* Subject to review, as provided elsewhere in this part, the Administrative Law Judge shall have power to take actions and decisions in conformity with statute or in the interests of justice. The Administrative Law Judge shall not interrupt the recording of the proceedings on the record over the objection of any party.

(e) *Absence or change of the Administrative Law Judge.* In the case of the absence or unavailability of the Administrative Law Judge, or his inability to act, or his removal by disqualification or withdrawal, the powers and duties to be performed by him under this part in connection with a hearing assigned to him may, unless otherwise directed by the Administrator, be assigned to another Administrative Law Judge so designated to act by the Chief Administrative Law Judge, the Administrator or the Environmental Appeals Board.

[38 FR 19371, July 20, 1973, as amended at 38 FR 34117, Dec. 11, 1973; 57 FR 5342, Feb. 13, 1992]

PREHEARING PROCEDURES AND DISCOVERY

§ 164.50 Prehearing conference and primary discovery.

(a) *Purpose of the prehearing conference.* Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (d) of this section, the Administrative Law Judge shall, prior to the commencement of the hearing and for the purpose of expediting the hearing, file with the hearing clerk an order for a prehearing conference. More than one such conference may be held. Such order or orders shall direct the parties or their counsel to appear at a specified time and place to consider:

(1) The simplification of issues including listing of specific uses to be contested;

(2) The necessity or desirability of amendments to the objections or statement of issues, or any document filed in response thereto;

(3) The possibility of obtaining stipulations of fact and documents which will avoid unnecessary delay;

(4) Matters of which official notice may be taken;