

Environmental Protection Agency

§ 164.100

such certificate shall be attached to each of the copies of the transcript.

(b) [Reserved]

INITIAL OR ACCELERATED DECISION

§ 164.90 Initial decision.

(a) *Proposed findings of fact, conclusions, and order.* Within 20 days after the last evidence is taken in a hearing, each party may file with the hearing clerk proposed orders, findings of fact, and conclusions of law based solely on the record, and a brief in support thereof. Within 10 days thereafter, each party may file a reply brief. The Administrative Law Judge may, in his discretion, extend the total time period for filing any proposed findings, conclusions, orders or briefs for an additional 30 days. In such instances, briefs and replies shall be due at such time as the Administrative Law Judge may fix by order. The hearing shall be deemed closed at the conclusion of the briefing period.

(b) *Initial decision.* The Administrative Law Judge, within 25 days after the close of the hearing, shall evaluate the record before him, and prepare and file his initial decision with the hearing clerk. A copy of the initial decision shall be served upon each of the parties, and the hearing clerk shall immediately transmit a copy to the Environmental Appeals Board. The initial decision shall become the decision of the Environmental Appeals Board without further proceedings unless an appeal is taken from it or the Environmental Appeals Board orders review of it, pursuant to § 164.101.

[38 FR 19371, July 20, 1973, as amended at 57 FR 5343, Feb. 13, 1992]

§ 164.91 Accelerated decision.

(a) *General.* The Administrative Law Judge, in his discretion, may at any time render an accelerated decision in favor of Respondent as to all or any portion of the proceeding, including dismissal without further hearing or upon such limited additional evidence such as affidavits as he may receive, under any of the following conditions:

- (1) Untimely or insufficient objections filed pursuant to § 164.20;
- (2) Failure to comply with discovery orders;

(3) Failure to comply with prehearing orders;

(4) Failure to appear or to proceed at prehearing conferences;

(5) Failure to appear at the hearing;

(6) Failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted, or direct or collateral estoppel.

(7) That there is no genuine issue of any material fact and that the respondent is entitled to judgment as a matter of law; or

(8) Such other and further reasons as are just.

(b) *Effect.* A decision rendered under this section shall have the same force and effect as an initial decision entered under § 164.90.

APPEALS

§ 164.100 Appeals from or review of interlocutory orders or rulings.

Except as provided herein, appeals as a matter of right shall lie to the Environmental Appeals Board only from an initial or accelerated decision of the Administrative Law Judge. Appeals from other orders or rulings shall, except as provided in this section, lie only if the Administrative Law Judge certifies such orders or rulings for appeal, or otherwise as provided. The Administrative Law Judge may certify an order or ruling for appeal to the Environmental Appeals Board when: (a) The order or ruling involves an important question of law or policy about which there is substantial ground for difference of opinion; and (b) either (1) an immediate appeal from the order and ruling will materially advance the ultimate termination of the proceeding or (2) review after the final judgment is issued will be inadequate or ineffective. The Administrative Law Judge shall certify orders or rulings for appeal only upon the request of a party. If the Environmental Appeals Board determines that certification was improvidently granted, or takes no action within thirty (30) days of the certification, the appeal shall be deemed dismissed. When an order or ruling is not certified by the Administrative Law Judge, it shall be reviewed by the Environmental Appeals Board only upon appeal from the initial or accelerated decision except when the Environmental Appeals