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(5) Explain why the maximum speeds Amtrak desires are safe and practicable, or what track, signal system, or other facility improvements would make such speeds safe and practicable.

(d) In accordance with subsection 402(h) of the Act, Amtrak may apply to the Administrator for an order to require a railroad to permit or provide the operation of additional passenger trains on its rail lines. Each application shall:

(1) List the railroad, the endpoints of the proposed additional train or trains, and the proposed schedule for such additional train or trains, and

(2) Describe and give the background of all prior efforts and negotiations to obtain a satisfactory voluntary agreement with the railroad for the operation of the proposed additional train or trains.

(e) In addition to the data provided with their applications, applicants shall furnish the Administrator with any other information that the Administrator finds necessary in order to make the determinations required by the Act.

(f) Each applicant shall promptly notify, by registered or certified mail, any party affected by any application, whether Amtrak or a railroad, of the submission of each application under this part, and shall provide a copy of the application with such notice. An official U. S. Postal Service return receipt from the registered or certified mailing constitutes prima facie evidence of notice.

§ 201.6 Notice of hearing.

(a) A notice of hearing on an application shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) The notice shall state:

(1) The nature of the hearing;

(2) The place and date of the hearing. The date shall not be less than 60 days after publication of notice of the hearing;

(3) The legal authority under which the hearing is to be held;

(4) Issues of fact which may be involved in the hearing;

(5) If a draft Environmental Impact Statement is required, the date of publication of the draft and the place(s)

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where the draft and comments thereon may be viewed and copied;

(6) The place(s) where records and submitted direct testimony will be kept for public inspection;

(7) The final date for filing a notice of intent to participate in the hearing;

(8) The final date for submission of direct testimony on the application, and the number of copies required;

(9) The docket number assigned to the case, which shall be used in all subsequent proceedings; and

(10) The place and date of the pre-hearing conference.

§ 201.7 Notification by interested persons.

Any person desiring to participate as a party shall notify the Administrator, by registered or certified mail, on or before the date specified in the notice.

§ 201.8 Presiding officer.

(a) Upon publication of the notice of hearing pursuant to § 201.6, the Administrator shall appoint a presiding officer pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3105. No individual who has any conflict of interest, financial or otherwise, shall serve as presiding officer in such proceeding.

(b) The presiding officer, in any proceeding under this part, shall have power to:

(1) Change the time and place of the hearing and adjourn the hearing;

(2) Evaluate direct testimony submitted pursuant to these regulations, make a preliminary determination of the issues, conduct a prehearing conference to determine the issues for the hearing agenda, and cause to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER a final hearing agenda;

(3) Rule upon motions, requests, and admissibility of direct testimony;

(4) Administer oaths and affirmations, question witnesses, and direct witnesses to testify;

(5) Modify or waive any rule (after notice) upon determining that no party will be prejudiced;

(6) Receive written comments and hear oral arguments;

(7) Render a recommended decision; and

(8) Do all acts and take all measures, including regulation of media coverage, for the maintenance of order at

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and the efficient conduct of the proceeding.

(c) In case of the absence of the original presiding officer or his inability to act, the Administrator may assign to a successor the powers and duties of the original presiding officer without abatement of the proceeding unless otherwise ordered by the Administrator.

(d) The presiding officer may upon his own motion withdraw as presiding officer in a proceeding if he deems himself to be disqualified.

(e) A presiding officer may be requested to withdraw at any time prior to the recommended decision. Upon the filing by an interested person in good faith of a timely and sufficient affidavit alleging the presiding officer's personal bias, malice, conflict of interest, or other basis which might result in prejudice to a party, the hearing shall recess. The Administrator shall immediately act upon such allegation as a part of the record and decision in the proceeding, after making such investigation or holding such hearings, or both, as he may deem appropriate in the circumstances.

§ 201.9 Direct testimony submitted as written documents.

(a) Unless otherwise specified, all direct testimony, including accompanying exhibits, shall be submitted to the presiding officer in writing no later than the dates specified in the notice of the hearing, the final hearing agenda, or within 15 days after the conclusion of the prehearing conference, as the case may be. All direct testimony shall be in affidavit form, and exhibits constituting part of such testimony, referred to in the affidavit and made a part thereof, shall be attached to the affidavit. Direct testimony submitted with exhibits shall state the issue to which the exhibit relates; if no such statement is made, the presiding officer shall determine the relevance of the exhibit to the issues published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(b) The direct testimony submitted shall contain:

(1) A concise statement of the witness' interest in the proceeding and his position regarding the issues presented. If the direct testimony is presented by

a witness who is not a party, the witness shall state his relationship to the party;

(2) Facts that are relevant and material; and

(3) Any proposed issues of fact not stated in the notice of the hearing and the reason(s) why such issues should be considered at the hearing.

(c) Ten copies of all direct testimony shall be submitted unless the notice of the hearing specifies otherwise.

(d) Upon receipt, direct testimony shall be assigned a number and stamped with that number and the docket number.

(e) Contemporaneous with the publication of the notice of hearing, Amtrak's direct testimony in support of its application shall be available for public inspection as specified in the notice of hearing. Amtrak may submit additional direct testimony during the time periods allowed for submission of such testimony by witnesses.

§ 201.10 Mailing address.

Unless otherwise specified in the notice of hearing, all direct testimony shall be addressed to the Docket Clerk, Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. All affidavits and exhibits shall be clearly marked with the docket number of the proceeding.

§ 201.11 Inspection and copying of documents.

(a) If confidential financial information is not involved, any document in a file pertaining to any hearing authorized by this part or any document forming part of the record of such a hearing may be inspected or copied in the Office of the Chief Counsel, Federal Railroad Administration, 400 7th Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590, unless the file is in the care and custody of the presiding officer in which case he shall notify the parties as to where and when the record may be inspected.

(b) If confidential financial information is involved, the presiding officer, at his discretion, upon the request of any party, may deny the public inspection and copying of such information.