

§ 26.20

objection is made to part of an item or category, the part shall be specified. The party submitting the request may move for an order under § 26.17 with respect to any objection to or other failure to respond to the request or any part thereof, or any failure to permit inspection as requested.

§ 26.20 Admissions as to facts and documents.

(a) *Request for admissions.* At any time after an answer has been filed, any party may serve upon any other party a written request for the admission of the genuineness of any relevant documents described in the request or of the truth of any relevant matters of fact. Copies of documents shall be delivered with the request unless copies have already been furnished. No order of the hearing officer is necessary.

(b) *Objection.* Each requested admission shall be considered admitted unless, within fifteen days after service of the request, the party from whom the admission is sought serves upon the party making the request either (1) a statement denying specifically the relevant matters of which an admission is requested or setting forth in detail the reasons why the party can neither truthfully admit nor deny them, or (2) written objections on the ground that some or all of the matters involved are privileged or irrelevant. Answers on matters to which objections are made may be deferred until the objections are ruled upon, but if written objections are made only to a part of a request, the remainder of the request shall be answered.

(c) *Limitation.* Admissions obtained pursuant to this procedure may be used in evidence only for the purposes of the pending action to the same extent and subject to the same objections as other evidence.

§ 26.21 Prehearing conference.

(a) *Prehearing conference.* The hearing officer may, on the hearing officer's own motion or at the request of any party, direct counsel for all parties to confer with the hearing officer before the hearing for the purpose of considering:

(1) Simplification and clarification of the issues;

24 CFR Subtitle A (4-1-06 Edition)

(2) Stipulations and admissions of fact and of the contents and authenticity of documents;

(3) The disclosure of the names of witnesses;

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

(5) Other matters as may aid in the orderly disposition of the proceeding, including disclosure of the documents or other physical exhibits which will be introduced in evidence in the course of the proceeding.

(b) *Recordation of prehearing conference.* The prehearing conference shall, at the request of any party, be recorded or transcribed.

(c) *Order on prehearing conference.* The hearing officer shall enter in the record an order which states the rulings upon matters considered during the conference, together with appropriate directions to the parties. The order shall control the subsequent course of the proceeding, subject to modifications upon good cause shown.

HEARINGS

§ 26.22 Public nature and timing of hearings, transcripts.

(a) *Public hearings.* All hearings in adjudicative proceedings shall be public.

(b) *Conduct of hearing.* Hearings shall proceed with all reasonable speed. The hearing officer may order recesses for good cause, stated on the record. The hearing officer may, for convenience of the parties or in the interests of justice, order that hearings be conducted outside Washington, DC, and, if necessary, at more than one place.

(c) *Transcripts.* Hearings shall be recorded and transcribed only by a reporter designated by the Department under the supervision of the hearing officer. The original transcript shall be a part of the record and shall constitute the sole official transcript. Respondents and the public, at their own expense, may obtain copies of transcripts from the reporter.

§ 26.23 Rules of evidence.

(a) *Evidence.* Every party shall have the right to present its case or defense by oral and documentary evidence, unless otherwise limited by law or regulation, to submit rebuttal evidence and