

§ 1023.101

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that purposes of the CDA or the interests of justice would be advanced thereby and provided both parties consent. Parties should not consume an entire period authorized for an action if the action can be sooner completed. Informal communication between parties is encouraged to reduce time periods whenever possible.

(c) The Board shall conduct proceedings in compliance with the security regulations and requirements of the Department or other agency involved.

Subpart A—Rules of the Board of Contract Appeals

AUTHORITY: Pub. L. 95-91, sec. 301, 91 Stat. 577; Pub. L. 95-563; EO 10789.

SOURCE: 44 FR 64270, Nov. 6, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

§ 1023.101 Scope and purpose.

The rules of the Board of Contract Appeals are intended to govern all appeal procedures before the Department of Energy Board of Contract Appeals (Board) which are within the scope of the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (41 U.S.C. 601 et seq.). The rules, with modifications determined by the Board to be appropriate to the nature of the dispute, also apply to all other contract and subcontract related appeals which are properly before the Board.

[62 FR 24808, May 7, 1997]

§ 1023.102 Effective date.

The rules of the Board of Contract Appeals shall apply to all proceedings filed on or after June 6, 1997, except that Rule 1 (a) and (b) of § 1023.120 shall apply only to appeals filed on or after October 1, 1995.

[62 FR 24808, May 7, 1997]

§ 1023.120 Rules of practice.

The following rules of practice shall govern the procedure as to all contract disputes appealed to this Board in accordance with this subpart:

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PRELIMINARY PROCEDURES

Rule 1 Appeals, How Taken. (a) Notice of an appeal shall be in writing and mailed or otherwise furnished to the Board within 90 days from the date of receipt of a contracting officer's decision. A copy of the notice shall be furnished at the same time to the contracting officer from whose decision the appeal is taken.

(b) Where the contractor has submitted a claim of \$100,000 or less to the contracting officer and has requested a written decision within 60 days from receipt of the request, and where the contracting officer has not done so, the contractor may file a notice of appeal as provided in subparagraph (a) above, citing the failure of the contracting officer to issue a decision.

(c) Where the contractor has submitted a claim in excess of \$100,000 to the contracting officer and the contracting officer has failed to issue a decision within a reasonable time,

the contractor may file a notice of appeal as provided in subparagraph (a) above, citing the failure to issue a decision.

(d) Upon docketing of appeals filed pursuant to (b) or (c) of this Rule, the Board, at its option, may stay further proceedings pending issuance of a final decision by the contracting officer within the time fixed by the Board, or order the appeal to proceed without the contracting officer's decision.

**Rule 2 Notice of Appeal, Contents.** A notice of appeal must indicate that an appeal is being taken and must identify the contract (by number), and the department, administration, agency or bureau involved in the dispute, the decision from which the appeal is taken, and the amount in dispute, if known. The notice of appeal should be signed by the appellant (the contractor making the appeal), or by the appellant's duly authorized representative or attorney. The complaint referred to in Rule 7 may be filed with the notice of appeal, or the appellant may designate the notice of appeal as a complaint, if it otherwise fulfills the requirements of a complaint.

**Rule 3 Docketing of Appeals.** When a notice of appeal in any form has been received by the Board, it shall be docketed promptly. Notice of docketing shall be mailed promptly to all parties (with a copy of these rules to appellant).

**Rule 4 Contracting Officer Appeal File.** (a) **Composition:** Within 30 days after receipt of notice that an appeal has been docketed, the contracting officer shall assemble and transmit to the Board one copy of the appeal file with an additional copy each to appellant (except that items 1 and 2, below, need not be retransmitted to the appellant) and to attorney for respondent. The appeal file shall consist of all documents pertinent to the appeal, including:

(1) The contracting officer's decision and findings of fact from which the appeal is taken;

(2) The contract, including pertinent specifications, modifications, plans, and drawings;

(3) All correspondence between the parties pertinent to the appeal, including the letters of claim in response to which the decision was issued;

(4) Transcripts of any testimony taken during the course of proceedings, and affidavits or statements of any witnesses on the matter in dispute made prior to the filing of the notice of appeal with the Board; and

(5) Any additional information considered pertinent.

(b) **Organization:** Documents in the appeal file may be originals, legible facsimiles, or authenticated copies. They shall be arranged in chronological order, where practicable, and indexed to identify readily the contents of the file. The contracting officer's final decision and the contract shall be conveniently placed in the file for ready reference.

(c) **Supplements:** Within 30 days after receipt of a copy of the appeal file assembled by the contracting officer, the appellant may supplement the file by transmitting to the Board any additional documents which it considers pertinent to the appeal and shall furnish two copies of such documents to attorney for respondent.

(d) **Burdensome documents.** The Board may waive the requirement of furnishing to the other party copies of bulky, lengthy, or out-of-size documents in the appeal file when a party has shown that doing so would impose an undue burden. At the time a party files with the Board a document as to which such a waiver has been granted, the other party shall be notified that the document or a copy is available for inspection at the offices of the Board or of the party filing the document.

(e) **Status of Documents:** Documents in the appeal file or supplements thereto shall become part of the historical record but shall not be included in the record upon which the Board's decision will be rendered unless each individual document has been offered and admitted into evidence.

**Rule 5 Motions.** (a) Any timely motion may be considered by the Board. Motions shall be in writing (unless made during a conference or a hearing), shall indicate the relief or order sought, and shall state with particularity the grounds therefore. Those motions which would dispose of a case shall be filed promptly and shall be supported by a brief. The Board may, on its own motion initiate any motion by notice to the parties.

(b) Parties may respond to a dispositive motion within 20 days of receipt, or as otherwise ordered by the Board. Answering material to all other motions may be filed within 10 days after receipt. Replies to responses ordinarily will not be allowed.

(c) Board rules relating to pleadings, service and number of copies shall apply to all motions. In its discretion, the Board may permit a hearing on a motion, and may require presentation of briefs, or it may defer a decision pending hearing on both the motion and the merits.

**Rule 6 Appellants election of procedures.** (a) The election to use Small Claims (Expedited) (Rule 13) or Accelerated (Rule 14) procedures is available only to appellant. The election shall be filed with the Board in writing no later than 30 days after receipt of notice that the appeal has been docketed, unless otherwise allowed by the Board.

(b) Where the amount in dispute is \$100,000 or less, appellant may elect to use the Accelerated procedures. Where the amount is \$50,000 or less, appellant may elect to use the Small Claims (Expedited) or the Accelerated procedures. Any question regarding the amount in dispute shall be determined by the Board.

**Rule 7 Pleadings.** (a) *Complaint.* Within 30 days after receipt of notice that the appeal has been docketed, the appellant shall file with the Board an original and two copies of a complaint setting forth simple, concise and direct statements of each of its claims. Appellant shall also set forth the basis, with appropriate reference to contract provisions, of each claim and the dollar amount claimed, to the extent known. This pleading shall fulfill the generally recognized requirements of a complaint, although no particular form is required. A copy of the complaint shall be served upon the attorney for the respondent or, if the identity of the latter is not known, upon the General Counsel, Department of Energy, Forrestal Building, Washington, D.C. 20585. If the complaint is not filed within 30 days and in the opinion of the Board the issues before the Board are sufficiently defined, appellant's claim and Notice of Appeal may be deemed to set forth its complaint and the respondent shall be so notified.

(b) *Answer.* Within 30 days after receipt of complaint, or a Rule 7(a) notice from the Board, the respondent shall file with the Board an original and two copies of an Answer, setting forth simple, concise and direct statements of respondent's defense to each claim asserted by appellant. This pleading shall fulfill the generally recognized requirements of an Answer, and shall set forth any affirmative defenses or counter-claims as appropriate. Should the answer not be filed within 30 days, the Board may, in its discretion, enter a general denial on behalf of the respondent and the parties shall be so notified.

**Rule 8 Amendments of Pleadings or Record.** (a) The Board upon its own initiative or upon application by a party may order a party to make a more definite statement of the complaint or answer, or to reply to an answer. The application for such an order suspends the time for responsive pleadings. The Board may, in its discretion, and within the proper scope of the appeal, permit either party to amend its pleadings upon conditions fair to both parties.

(b) When issues not raised by the pleadings are tried by express or implied consent of the parties, or by permission of the Board, they shall be treated in all respects as if they had been raised in the pleadings. In such instances, motions to amend the pleadings to conform to the proof may be entered, but are not required. Similarly, if evidence is objected to at a hearing on the ground that it is not relevant to an issue raised by the pleadings, it may be admitted but the objecting party may be granted a continuance if necessary to enable it to meet such evidence.

**Rule 9 Hearing Election.** Except as may be required under Rules 13 or 14, each party shall advise the Board following service upon appellant of respondent's Answer, or a Rule

7(b) Notice from the Board, whether it desires a hearing as prescribed in Rules 20 through 23.

**Rule 10 Submission of Appeal without a Hearing.** Either party may elect to waive a hearing and to submit its case upon the record as settled pursuant to Rule 15. Waiver by one party shall not deprive the other party of an opportunity for a hearing. Submission of a case without hearing does not relieve the parties from the necessity of proving the facts supporting their allegations or defenses. Affidavits, depositions, admissions, answers to interrogatories, and stipulations may be employed to supplement other documentary evidence in the Board record. The Board may permit such submission to be supplemented by oral argument and by briefs.

**Rule 11 Prehearing Briefs.** The Board may, in its discretion, require the parties to submit prehearing briefs in any case or motion. If the Board does not require briefs, either party may, upon timely notice to the other party, furnish a prehearing brief to the Board. In any case where a prehearing brief is submitted, it shall be furnished so as to be received by the Board at least 15 days prior to the date set for hearing, and a copy shall simultaneously be furnished to the other party.

**Rule 12 Prehearing Conference.** (a) Whether the case is to be submitted under Rule 10, or heard pursuant to Rules 20 through 23, the Board may, upon its own initiative or upon the application of either party, arrange a telephone conference or call upon the parties to appear before an administrative judge for a conference to consider:

- (1) Simplification, clarification, or severing of the issues;
- (2) The possibility of obtaining stipulations, admissions, agreements and rulings on documents, understandings on matters already of record, or similar agreements that will avoid unnecessary proof;
- (3) Agreements and rulings to facilitate discovery;
- (4) Limitation of the number of expert witnesses, or avoidance with similar cumulative evidence;
- (5) The possibility for settlement of any or all of the issues in dispute; and
- (6) Such other matters as may aid in the disposition of the appeal including the filing of proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, briefs, and other such papers.

(b) Any conference results not reflected in a transcript shall be reduced to writing by the Administrative Judge and the writing shall thereafter constitute part of the evidentiary record.

**Rule 13 Optional Small Claims (Expedited) Procedure.** (a) the Small Claims (Expedited) procedure for disputes involving \$50,000, or less, provides for simplified rules of procedure to facilitate the decision of an appeal,

whenever possible, within 120 days after the Board receives written notice of the election.

(b) Promptly upon receipt of an appellant's election of the Small Claims (Expedited) procedure in accordance with Rule 6, the assigned Administrative Judge will arrange an informal meeting or a telephone conference with both parties to:

- (1) Identify and simplify the issues in dispute;
- (2) Establish a simplified procedure appropriate to the particular appeal;
- (3) Determine whether a hearing is desired, and, if so, fix a time and place;
- (4) Establish a schedule for the expedited resolution of the appeal; and
- (5) Assure that procedures have been instituted for informal discussions on the possibility of settlement of any or all of the disputes in question.

(c) Failure to request an oral hearing within 15 days of receipt of notice of the Small Claims election shall be deemed a waiver and an election to submit the case on the record under Rule 10.

(d) The subpoena power set forth in Rule 18 is available for use under the Small Claims (Expedited) procedure.

(e) The filing of pleadings, motions, discovery proceedings or prehearing procedures will be permitted only to the extent consistent with the requirement of conducting the hearing at the scheduled time and place or, if no hearing is scheduled, of closing the record at an early time so as to permit a decision of the appeal within the target limit of 120 days. The Board, in its discretion, may impose shortened time periods for any actions required or permitted under these rules, necessary to enable the Board to decide the appeal within the target date allowing whatever time, up to 30 days, that it considers necessary for the preparation of the decision after closing the record and the filing of briefs, if any.

(f) Decisions in appeals considered under the Small Claims (Expedited) procedure will be rendered by a single Administrative Judge. If there is a hearing, the presiding Administrative Judge may, exercising discretion, hear closing oral arguments of the parties and then render an oral decision on the record. Whenever such an oral decision is rendered, the Board subsequently will furnish the parties with a written transcript of the decision for record and payment purposes and to establish the date for commencement of the time period for filing a motion for reconsideration under Rule 27.

(g) Decisions of the Board under the Small Claims (Expedited) procedure shall have no value as precedent for future cases and, in the absence of fraud, cannot be appealed.

**Rule 14 *Optional Accelerated Procedure.*** (a) This option makes available an Accelerated procedure, for disputes involving \$100,000 or less, whereby the appeal is resolved, when-

ever possible, within 180 days from board notice of the election.

(b) Promptly upon receipt of appellant's election of the Accelerated procedure in accordance with Rule 6, the assigned Administrative Judge will arrange an informal meeting or a telephone conference with both parties to:

- (1) Identify and simplify the issues in dispute;
- (2) Establish a simplified procedure appropriate to the particular appeal;
- (3) Determine whether a hearing is desired and, if so, fix a time and place;
- (4) Establish a schedule for the accelerated resolution of the appeal; and
- (5) Assure that procedures have been instituted for informal discussions on the possibility of settlement of any or all of the disputes in question.

(c) Failure by either party to request an oral hearing within 15 days of receipt of notice of the election under Rule 6 shall be deemed a waiver and an election to submit on the record under Rule 10.

(d) The subpoena power set forth in Rule 18 is available for use under the Accelerated procedure.

(e) The filing of pleadings, motions, discovery proceedings or prehearing procedures will be permitted only to the extent consistent with the requirement for conducting the hearing at the scheduled time and place or, if no hearing is scheduled, the closing of the record at an early time so as to permit decision of the appeal within the target limit of 180 days. The Board, in its discretion, may impose shortened time periods for any actions required or permitted under these rules, necessary to enable the Board to decide the appeal within the target date, allowing whatever time, up to 30 days, that it considers necessary for the preparation of the decision after closing the record and the filing of briefs, if any.

(f) Decisions in appeals considered under the Accelerated procedure will be rendered by a single Administrative Judge with the concurrence of another assigned Administrative Judge or an additional member in the event of disagreement.

**Rule 15 *Settling the Record.*** (a) The record upon which the Board's decision will be rendered consists of the documents, papers and exhibits admitted in evidence, and the pleadings, prehearing conference memoranda or orders, prehearing briefs, admissions, stipulations, transcripts of conferences and hearings, and posthearing briefs. The record will, at all reasonable times, be available for inspection by the parties at the office of the Board. In cases submitted pursuant to Rule 10 the evidentiary records shall be comprised of those documents, papers and exhibits submitted by the parties and admitted by the Board.

(b) Except as the Board, in its discretion, may otherwise order, no proof shall be received in evidence after completion of the evidentiary hearing or, in cases submitted on the record, after notification by the Board that the case is ready for decision.

(c) The weight to be attached to any evidence of record will rest within the sound discretion of the Board. The Board may in any case require either party, with appropriate notice to the other party, to submit additional evidence on any matter relevant to the appeal.

**Rule 16 Discovery—General.** (a) **General Policy and Protective Orders**—The parties are encouraged to engage in voluntary discovery procedures. In connection with any deposition or other discovery procedure, the Board may make any order required to protect a party or person from annoyance, embarrassment, or undue burden or expense. Those orders may include limitations on the scope, method, time and place for discovery, and provisions for protecting trade secrets or other confidential information or documents.

(b) **Expenses**—Each party bears its own expenses associated with discovery, unless in the discretion of the Board, the expenses are apportioned otherwise.

(c) **Subpoenas**—Where appropriate, a party may request the issuance of a subpoena under the provisions of Rule 18.

**Rule 17 Discovery—Depositions, Interrogatories, Admissions, Production and Inspection.** (a) **When Depositions Permitted**—If the parties are unable to agree upon the taking of a deposition, the Board may, upon application of either party and for good cause shown, order the taking of testimony of any person by deposition upon oral examination or written interrogatories before any officer authorized to administer oaths at the place of examination.

(b) **Orders on Depositions**—The time, place, and manner of taking depositions shall be as mutually agreed by the parties, or failing such agreement, as governed by order of the Board.

(c) **Depositions as Evidence**—No testimony taken by depositions shall be considered as part of the evidence in the hearing of an appeal until such testimony is offered and received as evidence at such hearing. It will not ordinarily be received as evidence if the deponent is present and can testify at the hearing. In such instances, however, the deposition may be used to contradict or impeach the testimony of the deponent given at the hearing. In cases submitted on the record, the Board may, in its discretion, receive depositions to supplement the record.

(d) **Interrogatories, etc.**—After an appeal has been filed with the Board, a party may serve on the other party: (1) Written interrogatories to be addressed separately in writing, signed under oath and answered within

30 days unless objections are filed within 10 days of receipt; (2) a request for the admission of specified facts or the authenticity of any documents, to be answered or objected to within 30 days after service. The factual statements and the authenticity of the documents shall be deemed admitted upon failure of a party, to timely respond; and (3) a request for the production, inspection and copying of any documents or objects not privileged, which are relevant to the appeal.

(e) Any discovery engaged in under this Rule shall be subject to the provisions of Rule 16.

**Rule 18 Subpoenas.** (a) **Voluntary Cooperation**—Each party is expected to cooperate and make available witnesses and evidence under its control without issuance of a subpoena. Additionally, parties will secure voluntary attendance of desired third-party witnesses and production of desired third-party books, papers, documents, or tangible things whenever possible.

(b) **Procedure**

(1) Upon request of a party and after a showing of relevance a subpoena may be issued requiring the attendance of a witness for the purpose of taking testimony at a deposition or hearing and, if appropriate, the production by the witness, at the deposition or hearing, of documentary evidence, including inspection and copying, as designated in the subpoena.

(2) The request shall identify the name, title, and address of the person to whom the subpoena is addressed, the specific documentary evidence sought, the time and place proposed and a showing of relevancy to the appeal.

(3) Every subpoena shall state the name of the Board, the title of the appeal, and shall command each person to whom it is directed to attend and give testimony, and if appropriate, to produce specified documentary evidence at a time and place therein specified. The presiding Administrative Judge shall sign the subpoena and may, in his discretion, enter the name of the witness, or the documentary evidence sought, or may leave it blank. The party requesting the subpoena shall complete the subpoena before service.

(4) Where the witness is located in a foreign country, a letter rogatory or subpoena may be issued and served under the circumstances and in the manner provided in 28 U.S.C. 1781-1784.

(c) **Requests to Quash or Modify**—Upon motion made promptly but in any event not later than the time specified in the subpoena for compliance, the Board may: (i) Quash or modify the subpoena if it is unreasonable and oppressive or for other good cause shown; (ii) condition denial of the motion upon payment by the person in whose behalf the subpoena was issued of the reasonable

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cost of producing the subpoenaed documentary evidence; or (iii) apply protective provisions under Rule 16(a).

(d) Service—

(1) The party requesting the subpoena shall arrange for service.

(2) A subpoena may be served at any place by a United States Marshal or Deputy Marshal, or by any other person who is not a party and not less than 18 years of age. Service of a subpoena shall be made by personally delivering a copy to the person named therein and tendering the fees for one day's attendance and the mileage that would be allowed in the courts of the United States. When the subpoena is issued on behalf of the United States or an officer or agency of the United States, money payments need not be tendered in advance of attendance.

(3) The party requesting a subpoena shall be responsible for the payment of fees and mileage of the witness and of the officer who serves the subpoena. The failure to make payment of such charges on demand may be deemed by the Board as a sufficient ground for striking the testimony of the witness and any documentary evidence the witness has produced.

(e) Contumacy or Refusal to Obey a Subpoena. In case of a contumacy or refusal to obey a subpoena by a person who resides, is found, or transacts business within the jurisdiction of a United States Court, the Board will apply to the Court through the Attorney General of the United States for an order requiring the person to appear before the Board or a member thereof to give testimony or produce evidence or both. Any failure of any such person to obey the order of the Court may be punished by the Court as a contempt thereof.

Rule 19 *Time and Service of Papers.* (a) All pleadings, briefs or other papers submitted to the Board shall be filed in triplicate and a copy shall be sent to other parties. Such communications shall be sent by delivering in person or by mailing, properly addressed with postage prepaid, to the opposing party or, where the party is represented by counsel, to its counsel. Pleadings, briefs or other papers filed with the Board shall be accompanied by a statement, signed by the originating party, saying when, how, and to whom a copy was sent.

(b) The Board may extend any time limitation for good cause and in accordance with legal precedent. All requests for time extensions shall be in writing except when raised during a recorded hearing.

(c) In computing any period of time, the day of the event from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included, but the last day of the period shall be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, in which event the period shall run to the end of the next business day. Unless otherwise stated in a Rule or Board

Order, dates will be met and papers considered filed when deposited in the mail system of the U.S. Postal Service, or hand-delivery is acknowledged at the Board offices.

### HEARINGS

Rule 20 *Hearings: Time and Place.* Hearings will be held at such places determined by the Board to best serve the interests of the parties and the Board. Hearings will be scheduled at the discretion of the Board with due consideration to the regular order of appeals, the requirements for expedited or accelerated procedures and other pertinent factors. On request by either party and for good cause, the Board may, in its discretion, change the time and place of a hearing.

Rule 21 *Hearings: Notice.* The parties shall be given at least 15 days notice of time and place set for hearings. In scheduling hearings, the Board will consider the desires of the parties and the requirement for just and inexpensive determination of appeals without unnecessary delay. Notices of hearing shall be promptly acknowledged by the parties. Failure to promptly acknowledge shall be deemed consent to the time and place.

Rule 22 *Hearings: Unexcused Absence of a Party.* The unexcused absence of a party at the time and place set for hearing will not be occasion for delay. In the event of such absence, the presiding Administrative Judge may order the hearing to proceed and the case will be regarded as submitted by the absent party as under Rule 10.

Rule 23 *Hearings: Rules of Evidence and Examination of Witnesses.* (a) Nature of Hearings—Hearings shall be as informal as may be reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances. Appellant and the respondent may offer such evidence as they deem appropriate and as would be admissible under the Federal Rules of Evidence or in the sound discretion of the presiding judge. The parties may stipulate the testimony that would be given by a witness if the witness were present. The Board may require evidence in addition to that offered by the parties.

(b) Examination of Witnesses—Witnesses before the Board will be examined orally under oath or affirmation, unless the presiding Administrative Judge shall otherwise order.

### REPRESENTATION

Rule 24 *Appellant.* An individual appellant may appear before the Board in person, a corporation by one of its officers; and a partnership or joint venture by one of its members; or any of these by an attorney at law duly licensed in any state, commonwealth, territory, the District of Columbia, or in a foreign country. An attorney representing an appellant shall file a written notice of appearance with the Board.

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Rule 25 *Respondent*. Counsel may, in accordance with their authority, represent the interest of the Government or other client before the Board. They shall file notices of appearance with the Board, and serve notice on appellant or appellant's attorney.

### BOARD DECISION

Rule 26 *Decisions*. Except as allowed under Rule 13, decisions of the Board shall be in writing upon the record as described in Rule 15 and will be forwarded simultaneously to both parties. The rules of the Board and all final orders and decisions shall be available for public inspection at the offices of the Board.

Rule 27 *Motion for Reconsideration*. (a) Motion for reconsideration shall set forth specifically the grounds relied upon to sustain the motion and shall be filed within 30 days after receipt of a copy of the Board's decision.

(b) Motions for reconsideration of cases decided under either the Small Claims (Expedited) procedure or the Accelerated procedure need not be decided within the original 120-day or 180-day limit, but shall be processed and decided rapidly.

Rule 28 *Remand from Court*. Whenever any court remands a case to the Board for further proceedings, each of the parties shall, within 20 days of such remand, submit a report to the Board recommending procedures to be followed so as to comply with the court's order. The Board shall consider the reports and enter special orders.

### DISMISSALS

Rule 29 *Dismissal Without Prejudice*. In certain cases, appeals docketed before the Board are required to be placed in a suspense status and the Board is unable to proceed with disposition thereof for reasons not within the control of the Board. Where the suspension has continued, or may continue, for an inordinate length of time, the Board may, in its discretion, dismiss such appeals from its docket without prejudice to their restoration when the cause of suspension has been removed. Unless either party or the Board acts within three years to reinstate any appeal dismissed without prejudice, the dismissal shall be deemed with prejudice.

Rule 30 *Dismissal for Failure to Prosecute*. Whenever a record discloses the failure of any party to file documents required by these rules, respond to notices or correspondence from the Board or otherwise indicates an intention not to continue the prosecution or defense of an appeal, the Board may issue an order requiring the offending party to show cause why the appeal should not be dismissed or granted, as appropriate. If no cause, the Board may take such action as it deems reasonable and proper.

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### SANCTIONS

Rule 31 *Failure to Obey Board Order*. If any party fails or refuses to obey an order issued by the Board, the Board may issue such orders as it considers necessary to the just and expeditious conduct of the appeal, including dismissal with prejudice.

[44 FR 64270, Nov. 6, 1979. Redesignated at 62 FR 24808, May 7, 1997]

### Subpart B [Reserved]

### Subpart C—Procedures Relating to Awards Under the Equal Access to Justice Act

AUTHORITY: Sec. 644, Title VI, Pub. L. 95-91, 91 Stat. 599; 5 U.S.C. 504.

SOURCE: 57 FR 53542, Nov. 12, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### § 1023.300 Definitions.

For purposes of these procedures:

*Agency Counsel* means the attorney representing the Department or other agency in a proceeding under this subpart.

*Board* means the Department of Energy Board of Contract Appeals.

*Covered Proceeding* means an underlying proceeding as specified by paragraph (a) of § 1023.303.

*Days* means calendar days.

#### § 1023.301 Purpose of these rules.

The Equal Access to Justice Act, 5 U.S.C. 504 (called "the Act" in this subpart), provides for the award of attorney fees and other expenses to eligible individuals and entities who are parties to covered proceedings. An eligible party may receive an award when it prevails over an agency, unless the agency's position was substantially justified or special circumstances make an award unjust. These procedures describe the parties eligible for awards and covered Board proceedings. They also explain how to apply for awards and the procedures and standards that the Board will use to make them.

#### § 1023.302 When the Act applies.

The Act applies to any covered proceeding pending or commenced before