

Environmental Protection Agency

§ 164.40

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 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 Ad-

ministrative 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 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;

(5) The limitation of the number of expert and other witnesses;

(6) Procedure at the hearing except as so provided in § 164.80(a);

(7) The use of verified written statements in lieu of oral direct testimony;

(8) The intent of any party to request a scientific advisory committee as defined in § 164.2(f);

(9) The issuance of subpoenas and subpoenas duces tecum for discovery and hearing purposes;

(10) A setting of a time and place for the public hearing, after giving careful consideration to the convenience of all the parties, the witnesses, the public interest and the necessity for notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER as provided by § 164.8; and

(11) Any other matter that may expedite the hearing or aid in the disposition of the proceeding.

(b) *Primary discovery (Exchange of witness lists and documents).* At a prehearing conference or within some reasonable time set by the Administrative Law Judge prior to the hearing, each party shall make available to the other parties the names of the expert and other witnesses the party expects to call, together with a brief narrative summary of their expected testimony and a list of all documents and exhibits which the party expects to introduce into evidence. Thereafter, witnesses, documents, or exhibits may be added and narrative summaries of expected testimony amended upon motion by a party.

(c) *Record of the prehearing conference.* No transcript of any prehearing conference shall be made unless a request therefor by one of the parties is granted by the Administrative Law Judge. Such party shall bear the cost of the taking of the transcript unless otherwise ordered by the Administrative Law Judge. The Administrative Law Judge shall prepare and file for the record a written report of the action taken at each conference, which shall incorporate any stipulations or agreements made by the parties at or as a result of such conference, all rulings upon matters considered at such conference and appropriate orders.

(d) *Unavailability of a prehearing conference.* Upon a finding that circumstances render a prehearing conference unnecessary, or impracticable, or upon a finding that a prehearing conference would serve primarily to delay the proceedings rather than to expedite them, the Administrative Law Judge, on motion or sua sponte, may