

Environmental Protection Agency

§ 304.12

- 304.22 Appointment of Arbitrator.
- 304.23 Disclosure and challenge procedures.
- 304.24 Intervention and withdrawal.
- 304.25 *Ex parte* communication.

Subpart C—Hearings Before the Arbitrator

- 304.30 Filing of pleadings.
- 304.31 Pre-hearing conference.
- 304.32 Arbitral hearing.
- 304.33 Arbitral decision and public comment.

Subpart D—Other Provisions

- 304.40 Effect and enforcement of final decision.
- 304.41 Administrative fees, expenses, and Arbitrator's fee.
- 304.42 Miscellaneous provisions.

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 9607(a) and 9622(h)(2), Executive Order No. 12580, 52 FR 2923 (January 29, 1987).

SOURCE: 54 FR 23179, May 30, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—General

§ 304.10 Purpose.

This regulation establishes and governs procedures for the arbitration of EPA cost recovery claims arising under section 107(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9607(a), as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Pub. L. 99-499, 100 Stat. 1613 (1986) ("CERCLA"), pursuant to the authority granted EPA by section 122(h)(2) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9622(h)(2), and Executive Order No. 12580, 52 FR 2923 (January 29, 1987).

§ 304.11 Scope and applicability.

The procedures established by this regulation govern the arbitration of EPA claims for recovery, under section 107(a) of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9607(a), of response costs incurred at or in connection with a facility by the United States pursuant to section 104 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9604. The procedures are applicable when:

- (a) The total past and projected response costs for the facility concerned do not exceed \$500,000, excluding interest; and
- (b) The Administrator and one or more PRPs have submitted a joint re-

quest for arbitration pursuant to § 304.21 of this part.

§ 304.12 Definitions.

Terms not defined in this section have the meaning given by section 101 of CERCLA, 42 U.S.C. 9601, or the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan, 40 CFR part 300. All time deadlines in this part are specified in calendar days and shall be computed in the manner described in Rule 6(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

Except when otherwise specified, the following terms are defined for purposes of this part as follows:

(a) *CERCLA* means the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, 42 U.S.C. 9601, *et seq.*, as amended by the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986, Pub. L. 99-499, 100 Stat. 1613 (1986).

(b) *Administrator* means the EPA Administrator or his designee.

(c) *Arbitrator* means the person appointed in accordance with § 304.22 of this part and governed by the provisions of this part.

(d) *Association* means the organization offering arbitration services selected by EPA to conduct arbitrations pursuant to this part.

(e) *Claim* means the amount sought by EPA as recovery of response costs incurred and to be incurred by the United States at a facility, which does not exceed \$500,000, excluding interest.

(f) *Ex parte communication* means any communication, written or oral, relating to the merits of the arbitral proceeding, between the Arbitrator and any interested person, which was not originally filed or stated in the administrative record of the proceeding. Such communication is not *ex parte communication* if all parties to the proceeding have received prior written notice of the proposed communication and have been given the opportunity to be present and to participate therein.

(g) *Interested person* means the Administrator, any EPA employee, any party to the proceeding, any potentially responsible party associated with the facility concerned, any person who filed written comments in the proceeding, any participant or intervenor