

§ 260.6

20 CFR Ch. II (4-1-07 Edition)

that were used in making the determination under review and any other additional evidence the appellant or any other party to the hearing presents in writing. If a hearing was held in the appeal, the tape recording of the hearing will be part of the record while the appeal is pending. The hearings officer's decision will be based on the record. The entire record at any time during the pendency of the appeal shall be available for examination by the appellant or by his or her duly authorized representative.

(k) *Extension of time to submit evidence.* Except where the hearings officer has determined that additional evidence not offered by the appellant at or prior to the hearing is available, the record shall be closed as of the conclusion of the hearing. The appellant may request an extension of time to submit evidence and the hearings officer will grant the request upon a showing of good cause for failure to have submitted the evidence earlier. The extension shall be for a period not exceeding 30 days.

(l) *Hearing by telephone or video teleconferencing.* As stated in paragraph (i)(1) of this section, at the discretion of the hearings officer, any hearing required under this part may be conducted in person, by telephone conference call, or by video teleconferencing. The hearings officer may determine the hearing should be conducted by telephone conference call or video teleconferencing if use of these methods would be more efficient than conducting an in person hearing and the hearings officer does not determine that there is a circumstance in the particular case preventing the use of these methodologies to conduct the hearing.

(The information collection requirements contained in paragraph (b) were approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 3220-0007)

[67 FR 77154, Dec. 17, 2002 as amended at 71 FR 55283, Sept. 22, 2006]

§ 260.6 Time limits for issuing a hearing decision.

(a) *General.* The hearings officer shall make every effort to issue a decision within 45 days after the hearing is held.

(b) *Submission of additional evidence.* If the hearings officer requests additional

evidence, he or she shall do so within 30 days after the hearing is held and he or she shall make every effort to issue the hearing decision within 45 days after the additional evidence is received and the period for comment has ended. If the claimant wishes to submit additional evidence or written statements of fact or law, the hearings officer shall make every effort to issue the hearing decision within 45 days after the written statements are received or the additional evidence is received and the period for comment has ended.

(c) *Supplemental hearing.* If on the basis of additional evidence the hearings officer decides a supplemental hearing is necessary, the supplemental hearing will be held within 30 days after the receipt of the additional evidence and the hearings officer shall make every effort to issue a decision within 30 days after the supplemental hearing is held.

(d) *Reassignment of case to another hearings officer.* If, after a hearing has been held, it is necessary to reassign a case to another hearings officer due to the unavailability of the original hearings officer (e.g., resignation, retirement, illness), the case will be promptly reassigned. The new hearings officer shall make every effort to issue a hearing decision within 30 days after the reassignment.

§ 260.7 Time limits for issuing a decision when a hearing is not held.

If a claimant waives his or her right to appear at a hearing and the hearings officer does not schedule the case for hearing, or the evidence in the record supports a favorable decision without a hearing, or a hearing is not required pursuant to § 260.5(g), the hearings officer shall make every effort to issue a decision within 90 days from the date the appeal is filed: *Provided, however,* that if the hearings officer requests additional evidence it shall be requested within 45 days of the filing of the appeal and the hearings officer shall make every effort to issue a decision within 30 days after the additional evidence is received and the appellant comments on the evidence, or if no comment is received after the close of the comment period.