

(c) If the Commission decides that a Notice of Inquiry, Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, or a public hearing on the petition would contribute to its determination whether to commence a rulemaking proceeding, it will publish an appropriate notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, to advise interested persons and to invite their participation.

(d) The Commission will not consider the merits of the petition before the expiration of the comment period on the Notice of Availability.

(e) The Commission will consider all comments filed within the comment period prescribed in the relevant FEDERAL REGISTER notice. The Commission may, at its discretion, consider comments received after the close of the comment period.

§ 200.4 Disposition of petitions.

(a) After considering the comments that have been filed within the comment period(s) and any other information relevant to the subject matter of the petition, the Commission will decide whether to initiate a rulemaking based on the filed petition.

(b) If the Commission decides not to initiate a rulemaking, it will give notice of this action by publishing a Notice of Disposition in the FEDERAL REGISTER and sending a letter to the petitioner. The Notice of Disposition will include a brief statement of the grounds for the Commission's decision, except in an action affirming a prior denial.

(c) The Commission may reconsider a petition for rulemaking previously denied if the petitioner submits a written request for reconsideration within 30 calendar days after the date of the denial and if, upon the motion of a Commissioner who voted with the majority that originally denied the petition, the Commission adopts the motion to reconsider by the affirmative vote of four members.

§ 200.5 Agency considerations.

The Commission's decision on the petition for rulemaking may include, but will not be limited to, the following considerations—

(a) The Commission's statutory authority;

- (b) Policy considerations;
- (c) The desirability of proceeding on a case-by-case-basis;
- (d) The necessity or desirability of statutory revision;
- (e) Available agency resources.

§ 200.6 Administrative record.

(a) The agency record for the petition process consists of the following:

(1) The petition, including all attachments on which it relies, filed by the petitioner.

(2) Written comments on the petition which have been circulated to and considered by the Commission, including attachments submitted as a part of the comments.

(3) Agenda documents, in the form they are circulated to and considered by the Commission in the course of the petition process.

(4) All notices published in the FEDERAL REGISTER, including the Notice of Availability and Notice of Disposition. If a Notice of Inquiry or Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published it will also be included.

(5) The transcripts or audio tapes of any public hearing(s) on the petition.

(6) All correspondence between the Commission and the petitioner, other commentators and state or federal agencies pertaining to Commission consideration of the petition.

(7) The Commission's decision on the petition, including all documents identified or filed by the Commission as part of the record relied on in reaching its final decision.

(b) The administrative record specified in paragraph (a) of this section is the exclusive record for the Commission's decision.

PART 201—EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS

Sec.

201.1 Purpose and scope.

201.2 Definitions.

201.3 Public funding, audits and litigation:
Ex parte contacts prohibited.

201.4 Rulemaking proceedings and advisory opinions: Ex parte contacts reported.

201.5 Sanctions.

AUTHORITY: 2 U.S.C. 437d(a)(8), 437f, 438(a)(8), 438(b); 26 U.S.C. 9007, 9008, 9009(b), 9038, 9039(b).