

rapidly if practicable. If the decision is in favor of the person making the request, the decision shall order records promptly made available to the person making the request. The Legal Counsel or designee may extend the 20 day period in which to render a decision on an appeal for that period of time which could have been claimed and consumed by the Legal Counsel's designee, the regional attorney, or the regional attorney's designee, under §1610.9 but which was either not claimed or consumed in making the original determination.

(c) The decision on appeal shall be in writing and signed by the Legal Counsel or designee. A denial in whole or in part of a request on appeal shall set forth the exemption relied on, a brief explanation of how the exemption applied to the records withheld and the reasons for asserting it, if different from that described by the Legal Counsel's designee, the regional attorney, or the regional attorney's designee under §1610.10, and that the person making the request may, if dissatisfied with the decision on appeal, file a civil action in the district in which the person resides or has his principal place of business, in the district where the records reside, or in the District of Columbia.

(d) No personal appearance, oral argument or hearing will ordinarily be permitted in connection with an appeal to the Legal Counsel or designee.

(e) On appeal, the Legal Counsel or designee may reduce any fees previously assessed.

(f) In the event that the Commission terminates its proceedings on a charge after the regional attorney or the regional attorney's designee denies a request for the charge file but during consideration of the requester's appeal from that denial, the request may be remanded for redetermination. The requester retains a right to appeal to the Legal Counsel from the decision on remand.

[49 FR 48040, Dec. 10, 1984, as amended at 52 FR 4902, Feb. 18, 1987; 54 FR 32062, Aug. 4, 1989; 56 FR 29579, June 28, 1991; 63 FR 1342, Jan. 9, 1998]

#### § 1610.13 Maintenance of files.

(a) The Legal Counsel or designee, and regional attorneys, shall maintain

files containing all material required to be retained by or furnished to them under this subpart. The material shall be filed by individual request indexed according to the exemptions asserted, and, to the extent feasible, indexed according to the type of records requested.

(b) The Legal Counsel or designee, shall also maintain a file open to the public, which shall contain copies of all grants or denials of appeals by the Commission. The material shall be indexed as stated in paragraph (a) of this section.

[45 FR 40605, June 16, 1980, as amended at 47 FR 46275, Oct. 18, 1982; 52 FR 4092, Feb. 18, 1987; 56 FR 29578, June 28, 1991]

#### § 1610.14 Waiver of user charges.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section the Legal Counsel or designee and regional attorneys or designees shall assess fees where applicable in accordance with §1610.15 for search, review and duplication of records requested. They shall also have authority to furnish documents without any charge or at a reduced charge if disclosure of the information is in the public interest because it is likely to contribute significantly to public understanding of the operations or activities of the government and is not primarily in the commercial interest of the requester.

(b) District directors, field directors, area directors, local directors and the librarian are hereby authorized to collect fees where applicable in accordance with §1610.15 for duplication of records which are to be made available for public inspection and copying in the district, field, area or local office, or in the headquarters library in accordance with §1610.4(b). District directors, field directors, area directors, local directors and the librarian are hereby authorized to duplicate such records without charge, or at a reduced charge in accordance with the criteria of paragraph (a) of this section.

[52 FR 13830, Apr. 27, 1987, as amended at 54 FR 32062, Aug. 4, 1989; 56 FR 29578, June 28, 1991; 63 FR 1342, Jan. 9, 1998; 71 FR 26830, May 9, 2006]