

**§ 27.32**

determining the amount of penalties and assessments to impose with respect to the misconduct (*i.e.*, the false, fictitious, or fraudulent claims or statements) charged in the complaint:

- (1) The number of false, fictitious, or fraudulent claims or statements;
- (2) The time period over which such claims or statements were made;
- (3) The degree of the defendant's culpability with respect to the misconduct;
- (4) The amount of money or the value of the property, services, or benefit falsely claimed;
- (5) The value of the Government's actual loss as a result of the misconduct, including foreseeable consequential damages and the costs of investigation;
- (6) The relationship of the amount imposed as civil penalties to the amount of the Government's loss;
- (7) The potential or actual impact of the misconduct upon national defense, public health or safety, or public confidence in the management of Government programs and operations, including particularly the impact on the intended beneficiaries of such programs;
- (8) Whether the defendant has engaged in a pattern of the same or similar misconduct;
- (9) Whether the defendant attempted to conceal the misconduct;
- (10) The degree to which the defendant has involved others in the misconduct or in concealing it;
- (11) Where the misconduct of employees or agents is imputed to the defendant, the extent to which the defendant's practices fostered or attempted to preclude such misconduct;
- (12) Whether the defendant cooperated in or obstructed an investigation of the misconduct;
- (13) Whether the defendant assisted in identifying and prosecuting other wrongdoers;
- (14) The complexity of the program or transaction, and the degree of the defendant's sophistication with respect to it, including the extent of the defendant's prior participation in the program or in similar transactions;
- (15) Whether the defendant has been found, in any criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding to have engaged in similar misconduct or to have dealt dishonestly with the Government of

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the United States or of a State, directly or indirectly; and

(16) The need to deter the defendant and others from engaging in the same or similar misconduct.

(c) Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the presiding officer or the Environmental Appeals Board from considering any other factors that in any given case may mitigate or aggravate the offense for which penalties and assessments are imposed.

[45 FR 24363, Apr. 9, 1980, as amended at 57 FR 5327, Feb. 13, 1992]

**§ 27.32 Location of hearing.**

- (a) The hearing may be held—
  - (1) In any judicial district of the United States in which the defendant resides or transacts business;
  - (2) In any judicial district of the United States in which the claim or statement in issue was made; or
  - (3) In such other place as may be agreed upon by the defendant and the presiding officer.
- (b) Each party shall have the opportunity to present argument with respect to the location of the hearing.
- (c) The hearing shall be held at the place and at the time ordered by the presiding officer.

**§ 27.33 Witnesses.**

- (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, testimony at the hearing shall be given orally by witnesses under oath or affirmation.
- (b) At the discretion of the presiding officer, testimony may be admitted in the form of a written statement or deposition. Any such written statement must be provided to all other parties along with the last known address of such witness, in a manner which allows sufficient time for other parties to subpoena such witness for cross-examination at the hearing. Prior written statements of witnesses proposed to testify at the hearing and deposition transcripts shall be exchanged as provided in § 27.22(a).
- (c) The presiding officer shall exercise reasonable control over the mode and order of interrogating witnesses and presenting evidence so as to:
  - (1) Make the interrogation and presentation effective for the ascertainment of the truth,