

§ 802.304

20 CFR Ch. VII (4-1-08 Edition)

§ 802.304 Purpose of oral argument.

Oral argument may be held by the Board in any case:

- (a) When there is a novel issue not previously considered by the Board; or
- (b) When in the interests of justice oral argument will serve to assist the Board in carrying out the intent of any of the Acts; or
- (c) To resolve conflicting decisions by administrative law judges on a substantial question of law.

§ 802.305 Request for oral argument.

- (a) During the pendency of an appeal, but not later than the expiration of 20 days from the date of receipt of the response brief provided by § 802.212, any party may request oral argument. The Board on its own motion may order oral argument at any time.
- (b) A request for oral argument shall be submitted in the form of a motion, specifying the issues to be argued and justifying the need for oral argument (see § 802.219).
- (c) The party requesting oral argument shall set forth in the motion suggested dates and alternate cities convenient to the parties when and where they would be available for oral argument.

§ 802.306 Action on request for oral argument.

As expeditiously as possible after the date upon which a request for oral argument is received, the Board shall determine whether the request shall be granted or denied.

§ 802.307 Notice of oral argument.

- (a) In cases where a request for oral argument has been approved or where oral argument has been ordered, the Board shall give all parties a minimum of 30 days' notice, in writing, by mail, of the scope of argument and of the time when, and place where, oral argument will be held.
- (b) Once oral argument has been scheduled by the Board, continuances shall not be granted except for good cause shown by a party, such as in cases of extreme hardship or where attendance of a party or his or her representative is mandated at a previously scheduled judicial proceeding. Unless the ground for the request arises there-

after, requests for continuances must be received by the Board at least 15 days before the scheduled date of oral argument, must be served upon the other parties and must specify good cause why the requesting party cannot be available for oral argument.

- (c) The Board may cancel or reschedule oral argument on its own motion at any time.

§ 802.308 Conduct of oral argument.

- (a) Oral argument shall be held in Washington, DC, unless the Board orders otherwise, and shall be conducted at a time reasonably convenient to the parties. For good cause shown, the presiding judge of the panel may, in his or her discretion, postpone an oral argument to a more convenient time.
- (b) The proceedings shall be conducted under the supervision of the Chairman or, if the Chairman is not on the panel, the senior judge, who shall regulate all procedural matters arising during the course of the argument.
- (c) Within the discretion of the Board, oral argument shall be open to the public and may be presented by any party, representative, or duly authorized attorney. Presentation of oral argument may be denied by the Board to a party who has not significantly participated in the appeal prior to oral argument.
- (d) The Board shall determine the scope of any oral argument presented and shall so inform the parties in its notice scheduling oral argument pursuant to § 802.307.
- (e) The Board in its discretion shall determine the amount of time allotted to each party for argument and rebuttal.

§ 802.309 Absence of parties.

The unexcused absence of a party or his or her authorized representative at the time and place set for argument shall not be the occasion for delay of the proceeding. In such event, argument on behalf of other parties may be heard and the case shall be regarded as submitted on the record by the absent party. The presiding judge may, with the consent of the parties present, cancel the oral argument and treat the appeal as submitted on the written record.