

ORIGINAL

M E M O R A N D U M

August 7, 1998

TO: DIVISION OF RECORDS AND REPORTING

FROM: DIVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES (GERVASI) *Red*

RE: DOCKET NO. 971663-WS - PETITION OF FLORIDA CITIES WATER COMPANY FOR LIMITED PROCEEDING TO RECOVER ENVIRONMENTAL LITIGATION COSTS FOR NORTH AND SOUTH FT. MYERS DIVISIONS IN LEE COUNTY AND BAREFOOT BAY DIVISION IN BREVARD COUNTY.

Attached is the COMMISSION STAFF'S REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE, to be filed in the above-referenced docket.

/RG

Attachment

cc: Division of Water and Wastewater  
(Willis, Bethea, Crouch, Merchant, Williams)

ACK \_\_\_\_\_ I:\971663-N.RG

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7300 RECORDS/REPORTING

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition of Florida  
Cities Water Company for limited  
proceeding to recover  
environmental litigation costs  
for North and South Ft. Myers  
Divisions in Lee County and  
Barefoot Bay Division in Brevard  
County.

DOCKET NO. 971663-WS

FILED:

COMMISSION STAFF'S REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE

The Commission staff files this Request for Administrative Notice of the following Commission orders and federal rules:

Florida Cities Water Company (FCWC) - Barefoot Bay

1. Order No. PSC-97-0516-FOF-WS, issued May 8, 1997, in Docket No. 951258-WS (rate case);
2. Order No. PSC-96-1147-FOF-WS, issued June 12, 1996, in Docket No. 951258-WS (rate case);
3. Order No. PSC-95-0039-FOF-WU, issued January 1, 1995, in Docket No. 940687-WU (rate case);
4. Order No. PSC-92-0563-FOF-WS, issued June 24, 1992, in Docket No. 910976-WS (rate case);

FCWC - Golden Gate

5. Order No. PSC-95-0720-FOF-WS, issued June 15, 1995, in Docket No. 941108-WS (rate case);

FCWC - North Ft. Myers

6. Order No. PSC-96-1133-FOF-SU, issued September 10, 1996, in Docket No. 950387-SU (rate case);
7. Order No. PSC-95-1360-FOF-SU, issued November 2, 1995, in Docket No. 950387-SU (rate case);

COMMISSION STAFF'S REQUEST FOR ADMINISTRATIVE NOTICE  
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8. Order No. PSC-92-0594-FOF-SU, issued July 1, 1992, in Docket No. 910756-SU (rate case);
9. Order No. 15587, issued January 17, 1986, in Docket No. 840420-SU (rate case);

FCWC - South Fort Myers

10. Order No. PSC-92-0266-FOF-SU, issued April 18, 1992, in Docket No. 910477-SU;
11. Order No. PSC-93-1288-FOF-SU, issued September 7, 1993, in Docket No. 920808-SU;

FCWC - North & South Ft Myers

12. Order No. 16768, issued October 24, 1986, in Docket No. 851007-WU (rate case);

Florida Water Services, Inc.

13. Order No. PSC-96-1320-FOF-WS, issued October 30, 1996, in Docket No. 950495 (rate case);

Federal Rules

14. Title 40, Section 124.13, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, 1986;
15. Title 40, Section 124.74, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, 1986.

BEFORE THE FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In re: Petition of Florida  
Cities Water Company for limited  
proceeding to recover  
environmental litigation costs  
for North and South Ft. Myers  
Divisions in Lee County and  
Barefoot Bay Division in Brevard  
County.

DOCKET NO. 971663-WS

FILED:

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Commission Staff's Request for Administrative Notice has been furnished to **B. Kenneth Gatlin, Esquire**, 3301 Thomasville Rd., Suite 300, Tallahassee, Florida, 32312, and **Harold McLean, Esquire**, Office of Public Counsel, c/o The Florida Legislature, 111 W. Madison Street, Room 812, Tallahassee, Florida, 32399-1400, by U.S. Mail, on this 7th day of August, 1998.



ROSANNE GERVASI, SENIOR ATTORNEY

FLORIDA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
Gerald L. Gunter Building  
2540 Shumard Oak Boulevard  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0850  
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not being adequately represented by the original parties. The intervenor shall become a full party to the proceeding upon the granting of leave to intervene.

(4) *Amicus curiae.* Persons not parties to the proceeding who wish to file briefs may so move. The motion shall identify the interest of the applicant and shall state the reasons why the proposed amicus brief is desirable. If the motion is granted, the Presiding Officer or Administrator shall issue an order setting the time for filing such brief. An amicus curiae is eligible to participate in any briefing after his motion is granted, and shall be served with all briefs, reply briefs, motions, and orders relating to issues to be briefed.

(D) *Motions—(1) General.* All motions, except those made orally on the record during a hearing, shall (i) be in writing; (ii) state the grounds therefor with particularity; (iii) set forth the relief or order sought; and (iv) be accompanied by any affidavit, certificate, other evidence, or legal memorandum relied upon. Such motions shall be served as provided by paragraph (b)(4) of this section.

(2) *Response to motions.* A party's response to any written motion must be filed within ten (10) days after service of such motion, unless additional time is allowed for such response. The response shall be accompanied by any affidavit, certificate, other evidence, or legal memorandum relied upon. If no response is filed within the designated period, the parties may be deemed to have waived any objection to the granting of the motion. The Presiding Officer, Regional Administrator, or Administrator, as appropriate, may set a shorter time for response, or make such other orders concerning the disposition of motions as they deem appropriate.

(3) *Decision.* The Administrator shall rule on all motions filed or made after service of the recommended decision upon the parties. The Presiding Officer shall rule on all other motions. Oral argument on motions will be permitted where the Presiding Officer, Regional Administrator, or the Administrator considers it necessary or desirable.

(4) *Record of proceedings.* (i) The hearing shall be either stenographically reported verbatim or tape recorded, and thereupon transcribed by an official reporter designated by the Presiding Officer;

(ii) All orders issued by the Presiding Officer, transcripts of testimony, written statements of position, stipulations, exhibits, motions, briefs, and other written material of any kind submitted in the hearing shall be a part of the record and shall be available for inspection or copying in the Office of the Hearing Clerk, upon payment of costs. Inquiries may be made at the Office of the Administrative Law Judges, Hearing Clerk, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20460;

(iii) Upon notice to all parties the Presiding Officer may authorize corrections to the transcript which involves matters of substance;

(iv) An original and two (2) copies of all written submissions to the hearing shall be filed with the Hearing Clerk;

(v) A copy of each submission shall be served by the person making the submission upon the Presiding Officer and each party of record. Service under this paragraph shall take place by mail or personal delivery;

(vi) Every submission shall be accompanied by an acknowledgement of service by the person served or proof of service in the form of a statement of the date, time, and manner of service and the names of the persons served, certified by the person who made service, and;

(vii) The Hearing Clerk shall maintain and furnish to any person upon request, a list containing the name, service address, and telephone number of all parties and their attorneys or duly authorized representatives.

(5) *Participation by a person not a party.* A person who is not a party may, in the discretion of the Presiding Officer, be permitted to make a limited appearance by making oral or written statement of his/her position on the issues within such limits and on such conditions as may be fixed by the Presiding Officer, but he/she may not otherwise participate in the proceeding.

(6) *Rights of parties.* (i) All parties to the proceeding may:

(A) Appear by counsel or other representative in all hearing and pre-hearing proceedings;

(B) Agree to stipulations of facts which shall be made a part of the record.

(7) *Recommended decision.* (i) Within 30 days after the filing of proposed findings and conclusions, and reply briefs, the Presiding Officer shall evaluate the record before him/her, the proposed findings and conclusions and any briefs filed by the parties and shall prepare a recommended decision, and shall certify the entire record, including the recommended decision, to the Administrator.

(ii) Copies of the recommended decision shall be served upon all parties.

(iii) Within 20 days after the certification and filing of the record and recommended decision, all parties may file with the Administrator exceptions to the recommended decision and a supporting brief.

(8) *Decision by Administrator.* (i) Within 60 days after the certification of the record and filing of the Presiding Officer's recommended decision, the Administrator shall review the record before him and issue his own decision.

(ii) If the Administrator concludes that the State has administered the program in conformity with the appropriate Act and regulations his decision shall constitute "final agency action" within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 704.

(iii) If the Administrator concludes that the State has not administered the program in conformity with the appropriate Act and regulations he shall list the deficiencies in the program and provide the State a reasonable time, not to exceed 90 days, to take such appropriate corrective action as the Administrator determines necessary.

(iv) Within the time prescribed by the Administrator the State shall take such appropriate corrective action as required by the Administrator and shall file with the Administrator and all parties a statement certified by the State Director that such appropriate corrective action has been taken.

(v) The Administrator may require a further showing in addition to the certified statement that corrective action has been taken.

(vi) If the State fails to take such appropriate corrective action and file a certified statement thereof within the time prescribed by the Administrator, the Administrator shall issue a supplementary order withdrawing approval of the State program. If the State takes such appropriate corrective action, the Administrator shall issue a supplementary order stating that approval of authority is not withdrawn.

(vii) The Administrator's supplementary order shall constitute final Agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 704.

(viii) Withdrawal of authorization under this section and the appropriate Act does not relieve any person from complying with the requirements of State law, nor does it affect the validity of actions by the State prior to withdrawal.

[48 FR 14178, Apr. 1, 1983; 50 FR 6941, Feb. 19, 1985]

**PART 124—PROCEDURES FOR DECISIONMAKING**

**Subpart A—General Program Requirements**

- Sec.
- 124.1 Purpose and scope.
- 124.2 Definitions.
- 124.3 Application for a permit.
- 124.4 Consolidation of permit processing.
- 124.5 Modification, revocation and reissuance, or termination of permits.
- 124.6 Draft permits.
- 124.7 Statement of basis.
- 124.8 Fact sheet.
- 124.9 Administrative record for draft permits when EPA is the permitting authority.
- 124.10 Public notice of permit actions and public comment period.
- 124.11 Public comments and requests for public hearings.
- 124.12 Public hearings.
- 124.13 Obligation to raise issues and provide information during the public comment period.
- 124.14 Reopening of the public comment period.
- 124.15 Issuance and effective date of permit.
- 124.16 Stays of contested permit conditions.
- 124.17 Response to comments.

(iii) A brief description of the nature and purpose of the hearing, including the applicable rules and procedures; and

(iv) For 404 permits only, a summary of major issues raised to date during the public comment period.

(e) (Applicable to State programs, see § 123.25 (NPDES), 145.11 (UIC), 133.26 (404), and 271.14 (RCRA)). In addition to the general public notice described in paragraph (d)(1) of this section, all persons identified in paragraphs (c)(1) (i), (ii), (iii), and (iv) of this section shall be mailed a copy of the fact sheet or statement of basis for EPA-issued permits, the permit application (if any) and the draft permit (if any).

48 FR 14264, Apr. 1, 1983; 48 FR 30115, June 30, 1983

#### 124.11 Public comments and requests for public hearings.

(Applicable to State programs, see § 123.25 (NPDES), 145.11 (UIC), 133.26 (404), and 271.14 (RCRA).) During the public comment period provided under § 124.10, any interested person may submit written comments on the draft permit or the permit application for 404 permits when no draft permit is required (see § 233.39) and may request a public hearing, if no hearing has already been scheduled. A request for a public hearing shall be in writing and shall state the nature of the issues proposed to be raised in the hearing. All comments shall be considered in making the final decision and shall be answered as provided in § 124.17.

#### 124.12 Public hearings.

(a) (Applicable to State programs, see § 123.25 (NPDES), 145.11 (UIC), 133.26 (404), and 271.14 (RCRA).) (1) The Director shall hold a public hearing whenever he or she finds, on the basis of requests, a significant degree of public interest in a draft permit(s);

(2) The Director may also hold a public hearing at his or her discretion, whenever for instance, such a hearing might clarify one or more issues involved in the permit decision;

(3) For RCRA permits only, (i) the Director shall hold a public hearing whenever he or she receives written

notice of opposition to a draft permit and a request for a hearing within 45 days of public notice under § 124.10(b)(1); (ii) whenever possible the Director shall schedule a hearing under this section at a location convenient to the nearest population center to the proposed facility;

(4) Public notice of the hearing shall be given as specified in § 124.10.

(b) Whenever a public hearing will be held and EPA is the permitting authority, the Regional Administrator shall designate a Presiding Officer for the hearing who shall be responsible for its scheduling and orderly conduct.

(c) Any person may submit oral or written statements and data concerning the draft permit. Reasonable limits may be set upon the time allowed for oral statements, and the submission of statements in writing may be required. The public comment period under § 124.10 shall automatically be extended to the close of any public hearing under this section. The hearing officer may also extend the comment period by so stating at the hearing.

(d) A tape recording or written transcript of the hearing shall be made available to the public.

(e)(1) At his or her discretion, the Regional Administrator may specify that RCRA or UIC permits be processed under the procedures in Subpart F.

(2) For initial RCRA permits for existing HWM facilities, the Regional Administrator shall have the discretion to provide a hearing under the procedures in Subpart F. The permit applicant may request such a hearing pursuant to § 124.114 no one or more issues, if the applicant explains in his request why he or she believes those issues:

(i) Are genuine issues to material fact; and (ii) determine the outcome of one or more contested permit conditions identified as such in the applicant's request, that would require extensive changes to the facility ("contested major permit conditions"). If the Regional Administrator decides to deny the request, he or she shall send to the applicant a brief written statement of his or her reasons for concluding that no such determinative issues

have been presented for resolution in such a hearing.

[48 FR 14264, Apr. 1, 1983, as amended at 49 FR 17718, Apr. 24, 1984; 50 FR 6941, Feb. 19, 1985]

#### § 124.13 Obligation to raise issues and provide information during the public comment period.

All persons, including applicants, who believe any condition of a draft permit is inappropriate or that the Director's tentative decision to deny an application, terminate a permit, or prepare a draft permit is inappropriate, must raise all reasonably ascertainable issues and submit all reasonably available arguments supporting their position by the close of the public comment period (including any public hearing) under § 124.10. Any supporting materials which are submitted shall be included in full and may not be incorporated by reference, unless they are already part of the administrative record in the same proceeding, or consist of State or Federal statutes and regulations, EPA documents of general applicability, or other generally available reference materials. Commenters shall make supporting materials not already included in the administrative record available to EPA as directed by the Regional Administrator. (A comment period longer than 30 days may be necessary to give commenters a reasonable opportunity to comply with the requirements of this section. Additional time shall be granted under § 124.10 to the extent that a commenter who requests additional time demonstrates the need for such time.)

[49 FR 38051, Sept. 26, 1984]

#### § 124.14 Reopening of the public comment period.

(a)(1) The Regional Administrator may order the public comment period reopened if the procedures of this paragraph could expedite the decision-making process. When the public comment period is reopened under this paragraph, all persons, including applicants, who believe any condition of a draft permit is inappropriate or that the Regional Administrator's tentative decision to deny an application, termi-

nate a permit, or prepare a draft permit is inappropriate, must submit all reasonably available factual grounds supporting their position, including all supporting material, by a date, not less than sixty days after public notice under paragraph (a)(2) of this section, set by the Regional Administrator. Thereafter, any person may file a written response to the material filed by any other person, by a date, not less than twenty days after the date set for filing of the material, set by the Regional Administrator.

(2) Public notice of any comment period under this paragraph shall identify the issues to which the requirements of § 124.14(a) shall apply.

(3) On his own motion or on the request of any person, the Regional Administrator may direct that the requirements of paragraph (a)(1) of this section shall apply during the initial comment period where it reasonably appears that issuance of the permit will be contested and that applying the requirements of paragraph (a)(1) of this section will substantially expedite the decisionmaking process. The notice of the draft permit shall state whenever this has been done.

(4) A comment period of longer than 60 days will often be necessary in complicated proceedings to give commenters a reasonable opportunity to comply with the requirements of this section. Commenters may request longer comment periods and they shall be granted under § 124.10 to the extent they appear necessary.

(b) If any data information or arguments submitted during the public comment period, including information or arguments required under § 124.13, appear to raise substantial new questions concerning a permit, the Regional Administrator may take one or more of the following actions:

(1) Prepare a new draft permit, appropriately modified, under § 124.6;

(2) Prepare a revised statement of basis under § 124.7, a fact sheet or revised fact sheet under § 124.8 and reopen the comment period under § 124.14; or

(3) Reopen or extend the comment period under § 124.10 to give interested persons an opportunity to comment

Persons affected by a general permit may not challenge the conditions of a general permit as of right in further agency proceedings. They may instead either challenge the general permit in court, or apply for an individual NPDES permit under § 122.21 as authorized in § 122.28 and then request a formal hearing on the issuance or denial of an individual permit. (The Regional Administrator also has the discretion to use the procedures of Subpart F for general permits. See § 124.111).

(b) In certain cases, evidentiary hearings under this subpart may also be held on the conditions of UIC permits, or of RCRA permits which are being issued, modified, or revoked and reissued, rather than terminated or suspended. This will occur when the conditions of the UIC or RCRA permit in question are closely linked with the conditions of an NPDES permit as to which an evidentiary hearing has been granted. See § 124.74(b)(2). Any interested person may challenge the Regional Administrator's initial new source determination by requesting an evidentiary hearing under this part. See § 122.29.

(c) PSD permits may never be subject to an evidentiary hearing under this subpart. Section 124.74(b)(2)(iv) provides only for consolidation of PSD permits with other permits subject to a panel hearing under Subpart F.

#### § 124.72 Definitions.

For the purpose of this subpart, the following definitions are applicable:

"Hearing Clerk" means The Hearing Clerk, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC, 20460.

"Judicial Officer" means a permanent or temporary employee of the Agency appointed as a Judicial Officer by the Administrator under these regulations and subject to the following conditions:

(a) A Judicial Officer shall be a licensed attorney. A Judicial Officer shall not be employed in the Office of Enforcement or the Office of Water and Waste Management, and shall not participate in the consideration or decision of any case in which he or she performed investigative or prosecuto-

rial functions, or which is factually related to such a case.

(b) The Administrator may delegate any authority to act in an appeal of a given case under this subpart to a Judicial Officer who, in addition, may perform other duties for EPA, provided that the delegation shall not preclude a Judicial Officer from referring any motion or case to the Administrator when the Judicial Officer decides such action would be appropriate. The Administrator, in deciding a case, may consult with and assign the drafting of preliminary findings of fact and conclusions and/or a preliminary decision to any Judicial Officer.

"Party" means the EPA trial staff under § 124.78 and any person whose request for a hearing under § 124.74 or whose request to be admitted as a party or to intervene under § 124.79 or § 124.117 has been granted.

"Presiding Officer" for the purposes of this subpart means an Administrative Law Judge appointed under 5 U.S.C. 3105 and designated to preside at the hearing. Under Subpart F other persons may also serve as hearing officers. See § 124.119.

"Regional Hearing Clerk" means an employee of the Agency designated by a Regional Administrator to establish a repository for all books, records, documents, and other materials relating to hearings under this subpart.

#### § 124.73 Filing and submission of documents.

(a) All submissions authorized or required to be filed with the Agency under this subpart shall be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk, unless otherwise provided by regulation. Submissions shall be considered filed on the date on which they are mailed or delivered in person to the Regional Hearing Clerk.

(b) All submissions shall be signed by the person making the submission, or by an attorney or other authorized agent or representative.

(c)(1) All data and information referred to or in any way relied upon in any submission shall be included in full and may not be incorporated by reference, unless previously submitted as part of the administrative record in

#### Environmental Protection Agency

the same proceeding. This requirement does not apply to State or Federal statutes and regulations, judicial decisions published in a national reporter system, officially issued EPA documents of general applicability, and any other generally available reference material which may be incorporated by reference. Any party incorporating materials by reference shall provide copies upon request by the Regional Administrator or the Presiding Officer.

(2) If any part of the material submitted is in a foreign language, it shall be accompanied by an English translation verified under oath to be complete and accurate, together with the name, address, and a brief statement of the qualifications of the person making the translation. Translations of literature or other material in a foreign language shall be accompanied by copies of the original publication.

(3) Where relevant data or information is contained in a document also containing irrelevant matter, either the irrelevant matter shall be deleted or the relevant portions shall be indicated.

(4) Failure to comply with the requirements of this section or any other requirement in this subpart may result in the noncomplying portions of the submission being excluded from consideration. If the Regional Administrator or the Presiding Officer, on motion by any party or *sua sponte*, determines that a submission fails to meet any requirement of this Subpart, the Regional Administrator or Presiding Officer shall direct the Regional Hearing Clerk to return the submission, together with a reference to the applicable regulations. A party whose materials have been rejected has 14 days to correct the errors and resubmit, unless the Regional Administrator or the Presiding Officer finds good cause to allow a longer time.

(d) The filing of a submission shall not mean or imply that it in fact meets all applicable requirements or that it contains reasonable grounds for the action requested or that the action requested is in accordance with law.

(e) The original of all statements and documents containing factual ma-

terial data, or other information shall be signed in ink and shall state the name, address, and the representative capacity of the person making the submission.

#### § 124.74 Requests for evidentiary hearing.

(a) Within 30 days following the service of notice of the Regional Administrator's final permit decision under § 124.15, any interested person may submit a request to the Regional Administrator under paragraph (b) of this section for an evidentiary hearing to reconsider or contest that decision. If such a request is submitted by a person other than the permittee, the person shall simultaneously serve a copy of the request on the permittee.

(b)(1) In accordance with § 124.76, such requests shall state each legal or factual question alleged to be at issue, and their relevance to the permit decision, together with a designation of the specific factual areas to be adjudicated and the hearing time estimated to be necessary for adjudication. Information supporting the request or other written documents relied upon to support the request shall be submitted as required by § 124.73 unless they are already part of the administrative record required by § 124.18.

**NOTE:** This paragraph allows the submission of requests for evidentiary hearings even though both legal and factual issues may be raised, or only legal issues may be raised. In the latter case, because no factual issues were raised, the Regional Administrator would be required to deny the request. However, on review of the denial the Administrator is authorized by § 124.91(a)(1) to review policy or legal conclusions of the Regional Administrator. EPA is requiring an appeal to the Administrator even of purely legal issues involved in a permit decision to ensure that the Administrator will have an opportunity to review any permit before it will be final and subject to judicial review.

(2) Persons requesting an evidentiary hearing on an NPDES permit under this section may also request an evidentiary hearing on a RCRA or UIC permit. PSD permits may never be made part of an evidentiary hearing under Subpart E. This request is subject to all the requirements of paragraph (b)(1) of this section and in addition will be granted only if:

(i) Processing of the RCRA or UIC permit at issue was consolidated with the processing of the NPDES permit as provided in § 124.4;

(ii) The standards for granting a hearing on the NPDES permit are met;

(iii) The resolution of the NPDES permit issues is likely to make necessary or appropriate modification of the RCRA or UIC permit; and

(iv) If a PSD permit is involved, a permittee who is eligible for an evidentiary hearing under Subpart E on his or her NPDES permit requests that the formal hearing be conducted under the procedures of Subpart F and the Regional Administrator finds that consolidation is unlikely to delay final permit issuance beyond the PSD one-year statutory deadline.

(c) These requests shall also contain:

(1) The name, mailing address, and telephone number of the person making such request;

(2) A clear and concise factual statement of the nature and scope of the interest of the requester;

(3) The names and addresses of all persons whom the requester represents; and

(4) A statement by the requester that, upon motion of any party granted by the Presiding Officer, or upon order of the Presiding Officer *sua sponte* without cost or expense to any other party, the requester shall make available to appear and testify, the following:

(i) The requester;

(ii) All persons represented by the requester; and

(iii) All officers, directors, employees, consultants, and agents of the requester and the persons represented by the requester.

(5) Specific references to the contested permit conditions, as well as suggested revised or alternative permit conditions (including permit denials) which, in the judgment of the requester, would be required to implement the purposes and policies of the CWA.

(6) In the case of challenges to the application of control or treatment technologies identified in the statement of basis or fact sheet, identification of the basis for the objection, and the alternative technologies or combi-

nation of technologies which the requester believes are necessary to meet the requirements of the CWA.

(7) Identification of the permit obligations that are contested or are inseparable from contested conditions and should be stayed if the request is granted by reference to the particular contested conditions warranting the stay.

(8) Hearing requests also may ask that a formal hearing be held under the procedures set forth in Subpart F. An applicant may make such a request even if the proceeding does not constitute "initial licensing" as defined in § 124.111.

(d) If the Regional Administrator grants an evidentiary hearing request, in whole or in part, the Regional Administrator shall identify the permit conditions which have been contested by the requester and for which the evidentiary hearing has been granted. Permit conditions which are not contested or for which the Regional Administrator has denied the hearing request shall not be affected by, or considered at, the evidentiary hearing. The Regional Administrator shall specify these conditions in writing in accordance with § 124.60(c).

(e) The Regional Administrator must grant or deny all requests for an evidentiary hearing on a particular permit. All requests that are granted for a particular permit shall be combined in a single evidentiary hearing.

(f) The Regional Administrator (upon notice to all persons who have already submitted hearing requests) may extend the time allowed for submitting hearing requests under this section for good cause.

**§ 124.75 Decision on request for a hearing.**

(a)(1) Within 30 days following the expiration of the time allowed by § 124.74 for submitting an evidentiary hearing request, the Regional Administrator shall decide the extent to which, if at all, the request shall be granted, provided that the request conforms to the requirements of § 124.74, and sets forth material issues of fact relevant to the issuance of the permit.

(2) When an NPDES permit for which a hearing request has been granted constitutes "initial licensing" under § 124.111, the Regional Administrator may elect to hold a formal hearing under the procedures of Subpart F rather than under the procedures of this subpart even if no person has requested that Subpart F be applied. If the Regional Administrator makes such a decision, he or she shall issue a notice of hearing under § 124.116. All subsequent proceedings shall then be governed by §§ 124.117 through 124.121, except that any reference to a draft permit shall mean the final permit.

(3) Whenever the Regional Administrator grants a request made under § 124.74(c)(8) for a formal hearing under Subpart F on an NPDES permit that does not constitute an initial license under § 124.111, the Regional Administrator shall issue a notice of hearing under § 124.116 including a statement that the permit will be processed under the procedures of Subpart F unless a written objection is received within 30 days. If no valid objection is received, the application shall be processed in accordance with §§ 124.117 through 124.121, except that any reference to a draft permit shall mean the final permit. If a valid objection is received, this subpart shall be applied instead.

(b) If a request for a hearing is denied in whole or in part, the Regional Administrator shall briefly state the reasons. That denial is subject to review by the Administrator under § 124.91.

**§ 124.76 Obligation to submit evidence and raise issues before a final permit is issued.**

In any case where the Regional Administrator elected to apply the requirements of § 124.14(a), no evidence shall be submitted by any party to a hearing under this Subpart that was not submitted to the administrative record required by § 124.18 as part of the preparation of and comment on a draft permit unless good cause is shown for the failure to submit it. No issues shall be raised by any party that were not submitted to the administrative record required by § 124.18 as

part of the preparation of and comment on a draft permit unless good cause is shown for the failure to submit them. Good cause includes the case where the party seeking to raise the new issues or introduce new information shows that it could not reasonably have ascertained the issues or made the information available within the time required by § 124.15; or that it could not have reasonably anticipated the relevance or materiality of the information sought to be introduced. Good cause exists for the introduction of data available on operation authorized under § 124.60(a)(2).

[49 FR 38051, Sept. 26, 1984]

**§ 124.77 Notice of hearing.**

Public notice of the grant of an evidentiary hearing regarding a permit shall be given as provided in § 124.57(b) and by mailing a copy to all persons who commented on the draft permit, testified at the public hearing, or submitted a request for a hearing. Before the issuance of the notice, the Regional Administrator shall designate the Agency trial staff and the members of the decisional body (as defined in § 124.78).

**§ 124.78 Ex parte communications.**

(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) "Agency trial staff" means those Agency employees, whether temporary or permanent, who have been designated by the Agency under § 124.77 or § 124.116 as available to investigate, litigate, and present the evidence, arguments, and position of the Agency in the evidentiary hearing or nonadversary panel hearing. Any EPA employee consultant, or contractor who is called as a witness by EPA trial staff, or who assisted in the formulation of the draft permit which is the subject of the hearing, shall be designated as a member of the Agency trial staff;

(2) "Decisional body" means any Agency employee who is or may reasonably be expected to be involved in the decisional process of the proceeding including the Administrator, Judicial Officer, Presiding Officer, the Regional Administrator (if he or she does