

of Election without a Decision and Order.

(d) *Challenges or objections to a directed election.* A Direction of Election issued under this section will be issued without prejudice to the right of a party to file a challenge to the eligibility of any person participating in the election and/or objections to the election.

**§ 2422.17 Notice of hearing and prehearing conference.**

(a) *Purpose of notice of a hearing.* The Regional Director may issue a notice of hearing involving any issues raised in the petition.

(b) *Contents.* The notice of hearing will advise affected parties about the hearing. The Regional Director will also notify affected parties of the issues raised in the petition and establish a date for the prehearing conference.

(c) *Prehearing conference.* A prehearing conference will be conducted by the Hearing Officer, either by meeting or teleconference. All parties must participate in a prehearing conference and be prepared to fully discuss, narrow and resolve the issues set forth in the notification of the prehearing conference.

(d) *No interlocutory appeal of hearing determination.* A Regional Director's determination of whether to issue a notice of hearing is not appealable to the Authority.

**§ 2422.18 Hearing procedures.**

(a) *Purpose of a hearing.* Representation hearings are considered investigatory and not adversarial. The purpose of the hearing is to develop a full and complete record of relevant and material facts.

(b) *Conduct of hearing.* Hearings will be open to the public unless otherwise ordered by the Hearing Officer. There is no burden of proof, with the exception of proceedings on objections to elections as provided for in § 2422.27(b). Formal rules of evidence do not apply.

(c) *Hearing officer.* Hearings will be conducted by a Hearing Officer appointed by the Regional Director. Another Hearing Officer may be substituted for the presiding Hearing Officer at any time.

(d) *Transcript.* An official reporter will make the official transcript of the hearing. Copies of the official transcript may be examined in the appropriate Regional Office during normal working hours. Requests by parties to purchase copies of the official transcript should be made to the official hearing reporter.

**§ 2422.19 Motions.**

(a) *Purpose of a motion.* Subsequent to the issuance of a Notice of Hearing in

a representation proceeding, a party seeking a ruling, an order, or relief must do so by filing or raising a motion stating the order or relief sought and the grounds therefor. Challenges and other filings referenced in other sections of this subpart may, in the discretion of the Regional Director or Hearing Officer, be treated as a motion.

(b) *Prehearing motions.* Prehearing motions must be filed in writing with the Regional Director. Any response must be filed with the Regional Director within five (5) days after service of the motion. The Regional Director may rule on the motion or refer the motion to the Hearing Officer.

(c) *Motions made at the hearing.* During the hearing, motions will be made to the Hearing Officer and may be oral on the record, unless otherwise required in this subpart to be in writing. Responses may be oral on the record or in writing, but, absent permission of the Hearing Officer, must be provided before the hearing closes. When appropriate, the Hearing Officer will rule on motions made at the hearing or referred to the Hearing Officer by the Regional Director.

(d) *Posthearing motions.* Motions made after the hearing closes must be filed in writing with the Regional Director. Any response to a posthearing motion must be filed with the Regional Director within five (5) days after service of the motion.

**§ 2422.20 Rights of parties at a hearing.**

(a) *Rights.* A party at a hearing will have the right:

- (1) To appear in person or by a representative;
- (2) To examine and cross-examine witnesses; and
- (3) To introduce into the record relevant evidence.

(b) *Documentary evidence and stipulations.* Parties must submit two (2) copies of documentary evidence to the Hearing Officer and copies to all other parties. Stipulations of fact between/among the parties may be introduced into evidence.

(c) *Oral argument.* Parties will be entitled to a reasonable period prior to the close of the hearing for oral argument. Presentation of a closing oral argument does not preclude a party from filing a brief under paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) *Briefs.* A party will be afforded an opportunity to file a brief with the Regional Director.

(1) An original and two (2) copies of a brief must be filed with the Regional Director within thirty (30) days from the close of the hearing.

(2) A written request for an extension of time to file a brief must be filed with and received by the Regional Director no later than five (5) days before the date the brief is due.

(3) No reply brief may be filed without permission of the Regional Director.

**§ 2422.21 Duties and powers of the Hearing Officer.**

(a) *Duties of the Hearing Officer.* The Hearing Officer will receive evidence and inquire fully into the relevant and material facts concerning the matters that are the subject of the hearing, and may make recommendations on the record to the Regional Director.

(b) *Powers of the Hearing Officer.* During the period a case is assigned to a Hearing Officer by the Regional Director and prior to the close of the hearing, the Hearing Officer may take any action necessary to schedule, conduct, continue, control, and regulate the hearing, including ruling on motions when appropriate.

**§ 2422.22 Objections to the conduct of the hearing.**

(a) *Objections.* Objections are oral or written complaints concerning the conduct of a hearing.

(b) *Exceptions to rulings.* There are automatic exceptions to all adverse rulings.

**§ 2422.23 Election procedures.**

(a) *Regional Director conducts or supervises election.* The Regional Director will decide to conduct or supervise the election. In supervised elections, agencies will perform all acts as specified in the Election Agreement or Direction of Election.

(b) *Notice of election.* Prior to the election a notice of election, prepared by the Regional Director, will be posted by the activity in places where notices to employees are customarily posted and/or distributed in a manner by which notices are normally distributed. The notice of election will contain the details and procedures of the election, including the appropriate unit, the eligibility period, the date(s), hour(s) and location(s) of the election, a sample ballot, and the effect of the vote.

(c) *Sample ballot.* The reproduction of any document purporting to be a copy of the official ballot that suggests either directly or indirectly to employees that the Authority endorses a particular choice in the election may constitute grounds for setting aside an election if objections are filed under § 2422.26.

(d) *Secret ballot.* All elections will be by secret ballot.

(e) *Intervenor withdrawal from ballot.* When two or more labor organizations