

persons, including applicants, who believe any condition of a draft permit is inappropriate or that the permitting authority's initial decision to deny an application, terminate 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 30 days after public notice under paragraph (h)(2) of this section, set by the permitting authority. Thereafter, any person may file a written response to the material filed by any other person, by a date, not less than 20 days after the date set for filing of the material, set by the permitting authority.

(2) Public notice of any comment period under this paragraph shall identify the issues to which the requirements of § 71.11 (h)(1) through (h)(4) shall apply.

(3) On its own motion or on the request of any person, the permitting authority may direct that the requirements of paragraph (h)(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 (h)(1) of this section will substantially expedite the decision making process. The notice of the draft permit shall state whenever this has been done.

(4) A comment period of longer than 30 days may 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 may be granted to the extent the permitting authority finds it necessary.

(5) If any data, information, or arguments submitted during the public comment period appear to raise substantial new questions concerning a permit, the permitting authority may take one or more of the following actions:

- (i) Prepare a new draft permit, appropriately modified;
- (ii) Prepare a revised statement of basis, and reopen the comment period; or
- (iii) Reopen or extend the comment period to give interested persons an opportunity to comment on the information or arguments submitted.

(6) Comments filed during the reopened comment period shall be limited to the substantial new questions that caused the reopening. The public notice shall define the scope of the reopening.

(7) Public notice of any of the above actions shall be issued under paragraph (d) of this section.

(i) *Issuance and effective date of permit.*

(1) After the close of the public comment period on a draft permit, the permitting authority shall issue a final permit decision. The permitting authority shall notify the applicant and each person who has submitted written comments or requested notice of the final permit decision. This notice shall include reference to the procedures for appealing a decision on a permit. For the purposes of this section, a final permit decision means a final decision to issue, deny, revise, revoke and reissue, renew, or terminate a permit.

(2) A final permit decision shall become effective immediately upon issuance of the decision unless a later effective date is specified in the decision.

(j) *Response to comments.*

(1) At the time that any final permit decision is issued, the permitting authority shall issue a response to comments. This response shall:

(i) Specify which provisions, if any, of the draft permit have been changed in the final permit decision, and the reasons for the change; and

(ii) Briefly describe and respond to all significant comments on the draft permit raised during the public comment period, or during any hearing.

(2) Any documents cited in the response to comments shall be included in the administrative record for the final permit decision as defined in paragraph (k) of this section. If new points are raised or new material supplied during the public comment period, the permitting authority may document its response to those matters by adding new materials to the administrative record.

(3) The response to comments shall be available to the public.

(4) The permitting authority will notify in writing any affected State of any refusal to accept recommendations for the permit that the State submitted during the public or affected State review period.

(k) *Administrative record for final permits.*

(1) The permitting authority shall base final permit decisions on the administrative record defined in paragraph (k)(2) of this section.

(2) The administrative record for any final permit shall consist of:

(i) All comments received during any public comment period, including any extension or reopening;

(ii) The tape or transcript of any hearing(s) held;

(iii) Any written material submitted at such a hearing;

(iv) The response to comments and any new materials placed in the record;

(v) Other documents contained in the supporting file for the permit;

(vi) The final permit;

(vii) The application and any supporting data furnished by the applicant;

(viii) The draft permit or notice of intent to deny the application or to terminate the permit;

(ix) The statement of basis for the draft permit;

(x) All documents cited in the statement of basis;

(xi) Other documents contained in the supporting file for the draft permit.

(3) The additional documents required under paragraph (k)(2) of this section should be added to the record as soon as possible after their receipt or publication by the permitting authority. The record shall be complete on the date the final permit is issued.

(4) Material readily available at the permitting authority, or published materials which are generally available and which are included in the administrative record under the standards of paragraph (j) of this section need not be physically included in the same file as the rest of the record as long as it is specifically referred to in the statement of basis or in the response to comments.

(l) *Appeal of permits.*

(1) Within 30 days after a final permit decision has been issued, any person who filed comments on the draft permit or participated in the public hearing may petition the Environmental Appeals Board to review any condition of the permit decision. Any person who failed to file comments or failed to participate in the public hearing on the draft permit may petition for administrative review only to the extent of the changes from the draft to the final permit decision. Except for revisions qualifying for minor permit revision procedures, de minimis permit revision procedures, or administrative amendments, the 30-day period within which a person may request review under this section begins with the service of notice of the permitting authority's action unless a later date is specified in that notice. For revisions processed pursuant to minor permit revision procedures, the 30-day period within which a person may request review under this section begins on the date after the permitting authority notifies the source and commenters of the final permit action. For revisions processed pursuant to de minimis permit revision procedures, the 30-day period within which a person may request review under this section begins