

199—7.9(17A,476) Pleadings and answers.

7.9(1) Pleadings. Pleadings may be filed pursuant to statute, rule, or order or filed to initiate a docket and shall be filed in the commission's electronic filing system.

7.9(2) Answers.

a. Unless otherwise ordered by the commission or presiding officer, answers to complaints, petitions, applications, or other pleadings shall be filed with the commission within 20 days after the day on which the pleading being answered was filed in the commission's electronic filing system and served upon the respondent or other party. However, when a statute or other provision of law requires the commission to issue a decision in the case in six months or less, the answer shall be filed with the commission within 10 days of service of the pleading being answered, unless otherwise ordered by the board or presiding officer.

b. Each answer must specifically admit, deny, or otherwise answer all material allegations of the pleadings and also briefly set forth the affirmative grounds relied upon to support each answer.

c. Any party who deems the complaint, petition, application, or other pleading insufficient to show a breach of legal duty or grounds for relief may move to dismiss instead of, or in addition to, answering.

d. A party may apply for a more definitive and detailed statement instead of, or in addition to, answering, if appropriate.

7.9(3) Amendments to pleadings. Amendments to pleadings may be allowed upon proper motion at any time during the pendency of the proceeding upon such terms as are just and reasonable.

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