

199—6.5(476) Initiating formal complaint proceedings.

6.5(1) If the consumer advocate, complainant, or the public utility is dissatisfied with the proposed resolution, a request for formal complaint proceedings may be made. Parties will be informed of their right to request formal proceedings. A request for civil penalties, in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code 199—Chapter 8, may also be filed at this time. Failure to file a request for civil penalties at this time does not preclude a party from requesting civil penalties at a later date during formal proceedings. If no request for formal proceedings is made within 14 days after issuance of the proposed resolution or the specified date of utility action, the proposed resolution will be deemed binding on all parties. The board may initiate formal proceedings and seek civil penalties at any time on its own motion.

6.5(2) The request for formal complaint proceedings shall be filed within 14 days after issuance of the proposed resolution or the specified date of utility action, whichever is later. The request shall be considered as filed on the date of the United States Postal Service postmark, the date personal service is made, or the date received in the board's records center. The request shall be in writing and must be delivered by United States Postal Service, other delivery service, or personal service. The request shall include the file number (C-XX-XXX) marked on the proposed resolution. It shall explain why the proposed resolution should be modified or rejected and propose an alternate resolution, including any temporary relief desired. Copies of the request shall be mailed to the consumer advocate and the parties.

6.5(3) Upon receipt of a request for formal complaint proceedings, the board shall consider whether formal complaint proceedings should be initiated and issue an order. If the board denies formal complaint proceedings, a party may file a petition for judicial review either in the Polk County district court or in the district court for the county in which the party resides or has its principal place of business pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.19. If formal complaint proceedings are initiated, an order will be issued docketing the case as a formal complaint and granting or denying, in whole or in part, any temporary relief requested.