

161—4.5(17A) Consolidation and severance.

4.5(1) *Grounds for consolidation.* The presiding officer may, upon motion, consolidate any or all matters at issue in two or more contested case proceedings where:

- a. The matters at issue involve common parties or common questions of fact or law;
- b. Consolidation would expedite and simplify consideration of the issues involved; and
- c. Consolidation would not adversely affect the rights of any of the parties to those proceedings.

4.5(2) *Effect of consolidation.* Where consolidated hearings are held, a single record of the proceedings may be made and the evidence introduced in one matter may be considered as introduced in the other, and a separate or joint decision shall be made at the discretion of the presiding officer.

4.5(3) *Severance.* The presiding officer may, for good cause shown, order any contested case proceedings or portions thereof severed.