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283—5.6(17A) Presiding officer.

5.6(1) Any party who wishes to request that the presiding officer assigned to render a proposed decision be an administrative law judge employed by the department of inspections and appeals must file a written request within 20 days or such other time period the commission designates after service of a notice of hearing which identifies or describes the presiding officer as the executive director or members of the commission.

- **5.6(2)** The commission or its designee may deny the request only upon a finding that one or more of the following apply:
- a. Neither the commission nor any officer of the commission under whose authority the contested case is to take place is a named party to the proceeding or a real party in interest to that proceeding.
- b. There is a compelling need to expedite issuance of a final decision in order to protect the public health, safety, or welfare.
 - c. A qualified administrative law judge is unavailable to hear the case within a reasonable time.
- d. The case involves significant policy issues of first impression that are inextricably intertwined with the factual issues presented.
 - e. The demeanor of the witnesses is likely to be dispositive in resolving the disputed factual issues.
 - f. Funds are unavailable to pay the costs of an administrative law judge and an interagency appeal.
 - g. The request was not timely filed.
 - h. The request is not consistent with a specified statute.
- **5.6(3)** The commission or its designee shall issue a written ruling specifying the grounds for its decision within 20 days or such other time period the commission designates after a request for an administrative law judge is filed. The parties shall be notified at least 10 days prior to hearing if a qualified administrative law judge will not be available.
- **5.6(4)** Except as provided otherwise by another provision of law, all rulings by an administrative law judge acting as presiding officer are subject to appeal to the commission. A party must seek any available intra-agency appeal in order to exhaust adequate administrative remedies.
- **5.6(5)** Unless otherwise provided by law, agency heads and members of multimembered agency heads, when reviewing a proposed decision upon intra-agency appeal, shall have the powers of and shall comply with the provisions of this chapter which apply to presiding officers.