



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Interior Board of Contract Appeals

801 N. Quincy St. Suite 300

Arlington, VA 22203

703 235 3813

703 235 1281 (fax)

CERTIFIED MAIL- -RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

September 28, 2006

**Lloyd Benton Miller, Esq.
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse
Miller & Munson, LLP
900 West Fifth Avenue, Suite 700
Anchorage, AK 99501**

DOCKETING NOTICE

IBCA 4847-2006

thru

IBCA 4855-2006

Dear Mr. Miller:

The appeals of Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, filed with respect to Indian Health Service Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) Compact No. 60G950037 (effective 10-01-96, to the present) have been assigned to Chief Administrative Judge Steel and docketed as follows:

**IBCA 4847-2006 - Damages claimed in the amount of \$967,923 plus interest FY 1997
IBCA 4848-2006 - Damages claimed in the amount of \$926,020 plus interest FY 1998
IBCA 4849-2006 - Damages claimed in the amount of \$336,162 plus interest FY 1999
IBCA 4850-2006 - Damages claimed in the amount of \$1,299,292 plus interest FY 2000
IBCA 4851-2006 - Damages claimed in the amount of \$200,282 plus interest FY 2001
IBCA 4852-2006 - Damages claimed in the amount of \$1,229,816 plus interest FY 2002
IBCA 4853-2006 - Damages claimed in the amount of \$1,301,060 plus interest FY 2003
IBCA 4854-2006 - Damages claimed in the amount of \$753,326 plus interest FY 2004
IBCA 4855-2006 - Damages claimed in the amount of \$3,845,152 plus interest FY 2005**

Future correspondence regarding these appeals should refer to those docket numbers. The Board should be addressed as follows:

**Chief Administrative Judge Candida S. Steel
Interior Board of Contract Appeals
801 N. Quincy Street, Suite 300
Arlington, Virginia 22203**

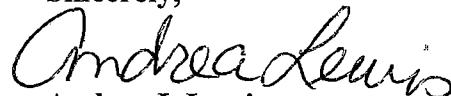
A copy of the Board's Rules of Procedure is enclosed. Please note that Section 4.107 (a) of the Rules requires that Appellant's counsel, file a Complaint within 30 days after receipt of this docketing notice. Please note that Section 4.117 requires that a copy of any document filed with the Board be served upon the other party. It is equally important that all correspondence be dated before filing. Finally, please include an electronic copy of any filings on diskette or CD in Word Perfect or Word format with the hard copy of the original pleadings.

In addition to the Rules, we have enclosed copies of the Board's Notice Regarding Alternative Methods of Dispute Resolution (ADR), which was adopted on February 7, 1990, and of our Code of Professional Courtesy, adopted May 1, 1994. Both are self-explanatory. An increasingly high percentage of parties who choose ADR methods now resolve their disputes without the expense of a formal evidentiary hearing before the Board. The Code was similarly adopted because of a perceived need for it on the part of both judges and members of the bar. We commend it to your attention.

By copy of this docketing notice, the Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Division, Rockville, Maryland is requested to designate counsel to represent the Government in this appeal. Likewise, by copy hereof, the Contracting Officer is reminded to promptly, within not more than 30 days, compile the appeal file and transmit copies to the Board, Government counsel, and Appellant as specified in Section 4.104 of the Board's Rules.

The Contracting Officer is also reminded to note the specific provisions of Section 4.104(c) requiring that documents included in the appeal file be legible, arranged in chronological order when practicable, numbered sequentially, tabbed, indexed to identify the contents of the file, and bound.

Sincerely,



Andrea I. Lewis
Recorder

Enclosures:

cc: Dr. Charles W. Grim, Director
U.S. DHHS
801 Thompson Avenue, Room 440
Rockville, MD 20842

Susan Hudson, Esq.
U.S. DHHS-Indian Health Service
Public Health Division
Room 4A-53 Parklawn Building
5600 Fishers Lane
Rockville, MD 20857

section to public disclosure of the document in its entirety.

(f) Where a decision by a presiding officer or appeals board is based in whole or in part on evidence not included in the public record or disclosed to all parties, the decision shall so state, specifying the nature of the evidence and the provision of law under which disclosure was denied, and the evidence so considered shall be retained under seal as part of the official record.

43 FR 49661, Dec. 9, 1988

Subpart C—Special Rules of Practice Before the Interior Board of Contract Appeals

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301 and the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 (Pub. L. 95-563, Nov. 1, 1978 (41 U.S.C. 601-613)).

SOURCE: 46 FR 57499, Nov. 24, 1981, unless otherwise noted.

§ 4.100 General rules and guidelines.

(a) *Effective date and applicability.*—(1) *Effective date and general applicability.* These rules shall be in effect on and after March 1, 1979, and except as qualified by the provisions of paragraphs (a)(2) and (3) of this section, shall apply to all appeals brought before the Interior Board of Contract Appeals.

(2) *Special applicability.* The rule set forth in § 4.102(a) provides for alternative applicability, depending upon whether the appeal involved is subject to the Contract Disputes Act of 1978, Public Law 95-563 (41 U.S.C. 601-613). The rules set forth in §§ 4.102 (c), (d), and (e), 4.113, and 4.120 shall apply exclusively to appeals which are subject to the Contract Disputes Act of 1978.

(3) *When an appeal is subject to the Contract Disputes Act of 1978.* An appeal shall be subject to the Contract Disputes Act of 1978 if it involves a contract entered into on or after March 1, 1979; or, at the election of the appellant, if the appeal involves a contract entered into before March 1, 1979, and the contracting officer's decision from which the appeal is taken is dated March 1, 1979, or thereafter.

(b) *Jurisdiction for considering appeals.* The Interior Board of Contract Appeals (referred to herein as the "Board") shall consider and determine appeals from decisions of contracting officers

relating to contracts made by (i) the Department of the Interior or (ii) any other executive agency when such agency or the Administrator of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy has duly designated the Board to decide the appeal.

(c) *Location and organization of the Board.* (1) The Board's address is 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22203. Its telephone number is (703) 235-3813.

(2) The Board consists of a Chairman, Vice Chairman, and other members all of whom are attorneys at law duly licensed by a State, Commonwealth, Territory, or the District of Columbia. In general, the appeals are assigned to a panel of at least two members who decide the cases. However, in cases of disagreement, or unusual circumstances, a panel of three members will be assigned to decide by a majority vote. Board members are designated Administrative Judges.

(d) *Time extensions and computations.* (1) Where possible, procedural actions should be taken in less time than the maximum time allowed. Where appropriate and justified, however, extensions of time will be granted. All requests for extensions of time shall be in writing.

(2) In computing any period of time, the day of the event from which the designated period of time begins to run shall not be included, but the last day of the period shall be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, in which event the period shall run to the end of the next business day.

(e) *General guidelines.*—(1) *Place of filings.* Unless the Board otherwise directs, all notices of appeal, pleadings, and other communications shall be filed with the Board at the address indicated herein. Communications to the Board shall be addressed to Interior Board of Contract Appeals, 4015 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, Virginia 22203.

(2) *Representation of parties.* Whenever in these rules reference is made to contractor, appellant, contracting officer, respondent, or parties, this shall include respective counsel for the parties, as soon as appropriate notices of appearances have been filed with the Board. In those cases where an executive agency, other than the Depart-

ment of the Interior, has designated the Board to adjudicate its contract appeals, the term, "Department Counsel," shall mean Government Counsel assigned to represent such agency.

(3) *Interpretation of these rules.* These rules will be interpreted so as to secure a just and inexpensive determination of appeals without unnecessary delay.

(4) *Decisions on questions of law.* When an appeal is taken pursuant to a disputes clause in a contract which limits appeals to disputes concerning questions of fact, the Board will, nevertheless, consider and decide all questions of law necessary for the complete adjudication of the issues.

(f) *Ex parte communications.* No member of the Board or of the Board's staff shall entertain, nor shall any person directly or indirectly involved in an appeal submit to the Board or the Board's staff, off the record, any evidence, explanation, analysis, or advice, whether written or oral, without the knowledge and consent of the adverse party, regarding any matter at issue in that appeal. This provision does not apply to consultation among Board members or to ex parte communications concerning the Board's administrative functions or procedures.

(g) *Sanctions.* If any party fails or refuses to obey an order issued by the Board, the Board may make such order in regard to the failure as it considers necessary to the just and expeditious conduct of the appeal.

[46 FR 57499, Nov. 24, 1981, as amended at 50 FR 8325, Mar. 1, 1985]

PREHEARING PROCEDURE RULES

§4.101 Who may appeal.

Any contractor may appeal to the Board from decisions of contracting officers of any bureau or office of the Department of the Interior, or of any other agency with respect to which the Board exercises contract appeals jurisdiction, on disputed questions under contract provisions requiring the determination of such appeals by the head of the agency or his duly authorized representative or Board.

§4.102 Appeals—how taken.

(a) *Notice of appeal.* Notice of an appeal must be in writing (a suggested

form of notice appears as appendix I to subpart C herein following §4.128). The original, together with two copies, may be filed with the Board or the contracting officer from whose decision the appeal is taken. The notice of appeal must be mailed or otherwise filed within 90 days from the date of receipt of the contracting officer's decision, if the appeal is subject to the Contract Disputes Act of 1978; otherwise, within the time specified therefor in the contract.

(b) *Contents of notice of appeal.* A notice of appeal should indicate that an appeal is thereby intended, and should identify the contract (by number), the Department's bureau or office involved in the dispute, and the decision from which the appeal is taken. The notice of appeal should be signed personally by the appellant (the contractor making the appeal), or by an authorized officer of the appellant corporation or member of the appellant firm, or by the contractor's duly authorized representative or attorney. The complaint referred to in §4.107 may be filed with the notice of appeal, or the contractor may designate the notice of appeal as a complaint, if it otherwise fulfills the requirements of a complaint.

(c) *Failure of CO to issue decision on claims of \$50,000 or less.* Where the contractor has submitted a claim of \$50,000 or less to the contracting officer and has requested a written decision within 60 days from receipt of the request, and the contracting officer has not complied, the contractor may file a notice of appeal as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, citing the failure of the contracting officer to issue a decision. (See §4.100(a)(2).)

(d) *Failure of CO to issue decision on claims in excess of \$50,000.* Where the contractor has submitted a claim in excess of \$50,000 to the contracting officer and the contracting officer has failed to issue a decision within a reasonable time, the contractor may file a notice of appeal as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, citing the failure to issue a decision. (See §4.100(a)(2).)

(e) *Optional stay of proceeding.* Upon docketing of appeals filed pursuant to paragraphs (c) or (d) of this section, the Board may at its option, stay further proceedings pending issuance of a final

decision by the contracting officer within such period of time as is determined by the Board. (See §4.100(a)(2).)

§4.103 Forwarding and docketing of appeals.

(a) *Forwarding of appeal.* When a notice of appeal in any form has been received by the contracting officer, he shall endorse thereon the date of mailing (or the date of receipt, if the notice was otherwise conveyed) and within 5 days shall forward said notice of appeal to the Board by certified mail. He shall also promptly notify the Department's Office of the Solicitor, in accordance with instructions of the Solicitor, that the appeal has been received in order that a Department counsel may be appointed.

(b) *Docketing of appeals.* When a notice of appeal in any form has been received by the Board, it shall be docketed promptly. Notice in writing of the fact of docketing, together with a copy of these rules, shall be mailed promptly by certified mail to the appellant. Also, a copy of such notice, together with a copy of the notice of appeal if not originally filed with the contracting officer, shall be mailed promptly by certified mail to the contacting officer. Such notice shall acknowledge receipt of the appeal and advise appellant of the appeal number assigned to the appeal.

§4.104 Preparation, organization, transmittal, and status of appeal file.

(a) *Preparation and transmittal of appeal file.* Following receipt of a notice of appeal, or advice that an appeal has been docketed, the contracting officer shall promptly, and in any event within 30 days, compile and transmit to the Board the appeal file which shall consist of copies of all documents pertinent to the appeal. Within the same time period the contracting officer shall also prepare and transmit a copy of the appeal file to the Department counsel and a copy to the appellant or appellant's counsel. (However, the obligations of this subparagraph are subject to the provisions of paragraph (e) of this section.)

(b) *Composition of appeal file.* The appeal file shall include the following:

(1) The findings of fact and decision from which the appeal is taken, and the letter or letters or other documents of claim in response to which the decision was issued;

(2) The contract, and pertinent plans, drawings, specifications, amendments, and change orders;

(3) All correspondence between the parties pertinent to the appeal; and

(4) Such additional information as may be considered pertinent and material.

(c) *Organization of appeal file.* Documents in the appeal file may be originals, legible facsimiles, or authenticated copies thereof, and shall be arranged in chronological order where practicable, numbered sequentially, tabbed, and indexed to identify the contents of the file, and bound. Any single document consisting of three or more pages shall be numbered sequentially for convenient reference at the hearing and in the preparation of briefs.

(d) *Opportunity for appellant to supplement appeal file.* The appellant shall be afforded the opportunity of supplementing the appeal file with such documentation as may be deemed pertinent to the appeal. The appellant shall be obligated, however, to furnish to Department counsel a copy of any document by which the appeal file is supplemented.

(e) *Burdensome documents.* The Board may waive the requirement of furnishing to the other party copies of bulky, lengthy, or out-of-size documents in the appeal file if a party has shown that doing so would impose an undue burden. At the time a party files with the Board a document as to which such a waiver has been granted, he shall notify the other party that the same or a copy is available for inspection at the offices of the Board or of the party filing the same.

§4.105 Dismissal for lack of jurisdiction.

Any motion challenging the jurisdiction of the Board shall be filed promptly. Hearing on the motion shall be afforded on application of either party, unless the Board determines that its decision on the motion will be deferred pending hearing on both the merits and

the motion. The Board has authority to raise at any time and on its own motion the issue of its jurisdiction to conduct a proceeding and may afford the parties an opportunity to be heard thereon.

§4.106 Representation and appearances.

(a) *The Appellant.* An individual appellant may appear before the Board in person, a corporation by one of its officers, and a partnership or joint venture by one of its members; or any of these by an attorney at law duly licensed in any state, commonwealth, territory, the District of Columbia, or in a foreign country. An attorney representing an appellant shall file a written notice of appearance with the Board.

(b) *The Government.* Department or Government counsel may, in accordance with their authority, represent the interest of the Government before the Board. They shall file notices of appearance with the Board, and notice thereof will be given appellant or appellant's attorney.

§4.107 Pleadings.

(a) *Complaint.* Within 30 days after receipt of notice of docketing of the appeal, the appellant shall file with the Board an original and one copy of a complaint setting forth simple, concise, and direct statements of each claim, alleging the basis with appropriate reference to contract provisions for each claim, and the dollar amount claimed. This pleading shall fulfill the generally recognized requirements of a complaint, although no particular form or formality is required. Letter size paper should be used for the complaint and for all other papers filed with the Board. Where the appeal arises out of a contract made with the Department of the Interior, a copy of the complaint shall be served by appellant upon the Department counsel if known, otherwise, upon the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, C Street, between 18th and 19th Streets, NW, Washington, DC 20240. Where the appeal arises out of a contract made with an agency other than the Department of the Interior, a copy of the complaint shall be served by appellant upon the General Counsel for that agency. All such serv-

ice shall be made in accordance with §4.117. Should the complaint not be received within 30 days, appellant's claim and appeal documents may, if in the opinion of the Board the issues before the Board are sufficiently defined, be deemed to set forth a complaint and the Department counsel will be so notified.

(b) *Answer.* Within 30 days from receipt of said complaint, or the aforesaid notice from the Board, the Department counsel shall prepare and file with the Board an original and one copy of an answer thereto, setting forth simple, concise, and direct statements of the Government's defenses to each claim asserted by appellant. This pleading shall fulfill the generally recognized requirements of an answer, and shall set forth any affirmative defenses or counterclaims, as appropriate. One copy of the answer will be served by the Department counsel upon the appellant in accordance with §4.117. Should the answer not be received within 30 days, the Board, in its discretion enter a general denial on behalf of the Government, and the appellant shall be so notified.

§4.108 Amendments of pleadings or record.

(a) The Board may, in its discretion, upon its own initiative or upon application by a party, order a party to make a more definite statement of the complaint or answer, or to reply to an answer.

(b) The Board may, in its discretion, and within the proper scope of the appeal, permit either party to amend his pleading upon conditions just to both parties. When issues within the proper scope of the appeal but not raised by the pleadings or the appeal file, are tried by express or implied consent of the parties, or by permission of the Board, they shall be treated in all respects as if they had been raised therein. In such circumstances motions to amend the pleadings to conform to the proof may be entered, but are not required. If evidence is objected to at a hearing on the ground that it is not within the issues raised by the pleadings or said appeal file (which shall be deemed part of the pleadings for this purpose), it may be admitted within

