



# United States Department of the Interior

## OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Office of the Director  
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### **STANDING ORDER ON OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS OPERATIONS DURING A LAPSE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDING**

The rules governing the Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) provide that the OHA Director “may issue Standing Orders to convey current information to parties and the public,” including to address an emergency or other contingency affecting OHA operations.<sup>1</sup> In accordance with that authority, the OHA Director issues this Standing Order on OHA operations during a lapse in appropriated funding for the office. This Standing Order will be effective for the duration of any lapse in appropriations.<sup>2</sup>

Except for the Probate Hearings Division, which will continue operating, OHA will be shut down during the length of a lapse in appropriated funding. OHA offices will be closed and will not conduct hearings, consider appeals, or issue orders and decisions. Deadlines for filing documents will be extended as defined below for each OHA unit.

#### **Departmental Cases Hearings Division (DCHD)**

1. New Cases: If the deadline for filing a document that initiates a proceeding before DCHD (e.g., hearing request, complaint, petition, or appeal) occurs during the shutdown, the filing will be due on the first full business day after the government reopens. For case initiating documents that must be filed with a bureau or office, please consult the bureau or office for guidance on filing during a shutdown.
2. Existing Cases: Filing deadlines occurring during a shutdown will be extended by the entire length of the shutdown, calculated by the number of calendar days that the shutdown lasts.
3. White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Act (WELSA): Filing deadlines occurring during a shutdown are extended by the entire length of the shutdown, calculated by the number of calendar days that the shutdown lasts.
4. All Cases: Documents submitted to DCHD by email ([dchd@oha.doi.gov](mailto:dchd@oha.doi.gov)), Bison File & Serve, or other means during a shutdown will be considered filed on the first full business day after the government reopens.

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<sup>1</sup> 43 C.F.R. § 4.5(b)(4).

<sup>2</sup> While this Standing Order is effective, it supplements the OHA Standing Order on Electronic Transmission (updated July 29, 2025) and supersedes any inconsistent terms.

### **Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA)**

1. Filings by Federal Parties: If the last day of the period for a Federal party to file a document other than a notice of appeal occurs during the shutdown, then under authority of 43 C.F.R. § 4.310(f)(3), that Federal party's filing deadline is automatically extended by the number of days that the shutdown lasts. Notices of appeal must be filed within the deadline for filings by non-Federal parties.
2. Filings by non-Federal Parties: If the last day of the period for a non-Federal party to file a document occurs during the shutdown, then the filing will be due on the first full business day after appropriations are restored.
3. Any document that is filed with or delivered to the IBIA during the shutdown will be deemed received by the IBIA on the first full business day after appropriations are restored.

### **Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA)**

1. New Cases: If the deadline for filing a notice of appeal with IBLA occurs during the shutdown, the filing will be due on the first full business day after the government reopens. If a notice of appeal must be filed with the office or bureau that issued the decision being appealed, please consult the office or bureau for guidance on the filing deadline during a shutdown.
2. Existing Cases: Filing deadlines occurring during a government shutdown are extended by the length of the shutdown, calculated by the number of calendar days that the shutdown lasts.
3. All Cases: Documents submitted to IBLA through Bison File & Serve or by other means during a shutdown will be considered filed on the first full business day after the government reopens.

### **Office of the Director (DIR)**

1. New Cases: If the deadline for initiating a proceeding in DIR occurs during the shutdown, the filing will be due on the first full business day after the government reopens.
2. Existing Cases: Filing deadlines occurring during a government shutdown are extended by the length of the shutdown, calculated by the number of calendar days that the shutdown lasts.
3. All Cases: Any document submitted to the DIR by email (dir@oha.doi.gov), Bison File & Serve, or other means during a shutdown will be considered filed on the first full business day after the government reopens.

So ordered.

Amy B. Sosin  
Acting Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals