



MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF
ADMINISTRATIVE
HEARINGS

OAH Update

Jenny Starr

Chief Administrative Law Judge

Agenda

- In-person and remote options for public comment hearings
- Public comment portal
- Website refresh

Hiring Updates



**Administrative Law
Judge Christa Moseng**



**Interim Assistant Chief
Administrative Law
Judge Eric Lipman**

In-person and
remote options for
public comment
hearings



Presumed proceeding locations

Proceeding	Remote	In Person
Proceedings where an interpreter is present		✓
Evidentiary Hearings		✓
Mediations		✓
Settlement Conferences		✓
Prehearing Conferences	✓ Telephone	
Attorney Fee Hearings	✓ Teams	
Motion Hearings	✓ Teams	
Public Comment Hearings	✓ Webex	

Parties may **move the court** to use an alternative location or remote option on a case-by-case basis.

Public Comment Hearings

- Presumed location: **Webex**
- **Virtual** attendance increases public participation
 - One virtual contested case received **76** comments overall compared to **2** the prior year
- Parties may **move the court** to use an alternative location, including:
 - In person
 - Teams
 - Hybrid

Face masks strongly recommended

- Face masks **strongly recommended** for in-person visitors
- Face masks **required** for **OAH judges** and staff during in-person proceedings
- Face masks may be temporarily removed while testifying or speaking in court



Public comment portal



eComments allows the public to

Find	Rulemaking matters open for comment
Download	Agencies' rulemaking materials (e.g. proposed rules, applicable public notices, Statement of Need and Reasonableness, and related exhibits)
Review	Comments submitted by the public on pending rulemaking matters
Submit	Comments on pending rulemaking matters

eComments Feedback

- Unprofessional
- Difficult to find and navigate
- Designed like social media
- Does not combine all important information in one place
- Does not create a report of all comments in the order received
- Provides central location
- Allows for a range of formality
- Promotes transparency by publishing comments in real time

Federal Comment Site

Regulations.gov
Your Voice in Federal Decision Making

SUPPORT

Make a difference. Submit your comments and let your voice be heard.

Search for Rules, Proposed Rules, Notices or Supporting Documents

Welcome to the new Regulations.gov

The new Regulations.gov is a re-envisioning of the classic Regulations.gov, with enhanced search capabilities, a simplified commenting process, and an interface that adapts to various screen sizes for mobile devices.

[Read More](#) [Watch Our Introduction Video](#)



What's Trending

 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Revised 2023 and Later Model Year Light-Duty Vehicle Greenhouse Gas Emissions Standards

 Comments Due - September 27, 2021

 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Application: Pesticide Experimental Use Permit

 Comments Due - September 30, 2021

Explore

Comments Due Soon

Today	21
Next 3 Days	71
Next 7 Days	173

Posted Recently

Today	149
Last 3 Days	388
Last 7 Days	627

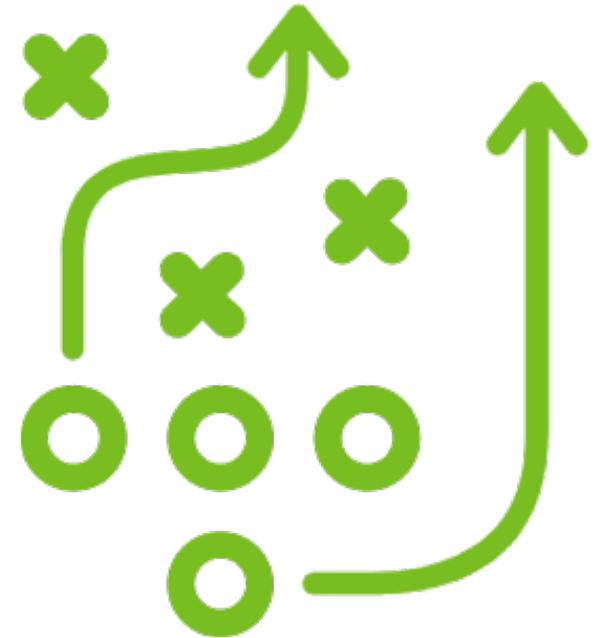
Dockets

Deregulatory	644
Economically Significant	924
Major Rule	959

Odyssey Fund

- OAH created an **Odyssey Fund** to support a new public comment portal for Minnesota rulemaking.
- **Six agencies** have contributed a total of **\$350,000** to this project.

Thank you!



What's Next?

Now



Later this year



2022

- Explore **regulations.gov**
- Consider how your agency & stakeholders might use and benefit from similar technology
- Think about your questions and feedback

- Gather agency feedback and formal requirements
- Engage with our project manager

- RFP publication and bidding process

Website refresh



Website Project

What we heard

- Difficult to find rulemaking information
- Too many navigation menus
- Not enough filtering and search options
- Cursive font is hard to read

Our plan

- Organize content by audience instead of by topic
- Investigate improvements to Administrative Law Archives page
- Simplify language throughout

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Thank you!

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