

**WAC 296-127-170 Hearing on notice of violation.** (1) The director may hear the appeal personally or may delegate the authority to hold the hearing and draft a proposed decision to an administrative law judge pursuant to chapter 34.12 RCW. The plaintiff in the hearing shall be the department, and the defendants shall be the violator and its interested sureties. The department shall have the burden of proving, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the violations occurred and that any wages were unpaid as stated in the notice.

(2) Any interested party may upon motion, be allowed to intervene as a plaintiff in the hearing. "Standing" shall be construed broadly to effectuate the remedial purposes of the prevailing wage law. An interested party, whether or not admitted as a plaintiff, may submit written arguments and affidavits. The parties shall be given an opportunity to respond to or rebut any arguments and affidavits before the person presiding over the hearing makes his or her decision.

(3) The hearing shall be conducted in accordance with chapter 34.05 RCW.

(4) If the director presides over the hearing, the director shall issue a final decision that includes findings of fact and conclusions of law, and if appropriate an order to pay unpaid prevailing wages, a penalty, or both.

(5) If an administrative law judge presides over the hearing, she or he shall issue a proposed decision that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and if appropriate an order to pay unpaid prevailing wages, a penalty, or both. The proposed decision shall be served by certified mail or personally on the violator, the interested sureties, the department, and any interested parties who have intervened as plaintiffs. Any of these parties, if aggrieved by the proposed decision, may appeal to the director within thirty days after the date of issuance of the proposed decision. If none of the parties appeals within thirty days, the proposed decision may not be appealed either to the director or the courts.

(6) An appellant must file with the director an original and two copies of its notice of appeal. The notice of appeal must specify which findings and conclusions are erroneous. The appellant must attach to the notice the written arguments supporting its appeal.

The appellant must serve a copy of the notice of appeal and the arguments on the other parties. The respondent parties must file with the director their written arguments within thirty days after the date the notice of appeal and the arguments were served upon them.

(7) The director shall review the proposed decision in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 34.05 RCW. The director may: Allow the parties to present oral arguments as well as the written arguments; require the parties to specify the portions of the record on which the parties rely; require the parties to submit additional information by affidavit or certificate; remand the matter to the administrative law judge for further proceedings; and require a departmental employee to prepare a summary of the record for the director to review. The director shall issue a final decision that can affirm, modify, or reverse the proposed decision.

(8) The director shall serve the final decision on all parties. Any aggrieved party may appeal the final decision to superior court pursuant to chapter 34.05 RCW unless the final decision affirms an unappealed proposed decision. If no party appeals within the period set by chapter 34.05 RCW, the director's decision is conclusive and binding on all parties.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 39.12 RCW. WSR 19-15-119, § 296-127-170, filed 7/23/19, effective 8/23/19. Statutory Authority: RCW 39.12.050, 39.12.065, 43.22.270 and 51.04.020. WSR 86-03-063 (Order 85-28), § 296-127-170, filed 1/17/86.]