SECTION 10. Public Hearings Regarding Permit Applications

(a) If the Agency decides to hold a public hearing regarding an application for a permit to conduct a regulated activity within an aquifer protection area, such hearing shall commence no later than sixty-five (65) days after the receipt of such application.

(b) Notice of the hearing shall be published at least twice at intervals of not less than two (2) days, the first not more than fifteen (15) days and not fewer than ten (10) days, and the last not less than two (2) days before the date set for the hearing in a newspaper having a general circulation in each city/town where the affected aquifer, or any part thereof, is located.

(c) The Agency shall send to any affected water company, at least ten (10) days before the hearing, a copy of the notice by certified mail, return receipt requested. Any affected water company may, through a representative, appear and be heard at any such hearing.

(d) All applications, maps and documents relating thereto shall be open for public inspection.

(e) At such hearing any person or persons may appear and be heard.

(f) The hearing shall be completed within thirty-five (35) days of its commencement.

(g) The applicant may consent to an extension of the time frames in Subsections (a) or (f) of this Section, provided the total extension of all such periods, including any extensions provided in Section 9(c), totals sixty-five (65) days or less.

(h) In reaching its decision on any application after a public hearing, the Agency shall base its decision on the record of that hearing. Documentary evidence or other material not in the hearing record shall not be considered by the Agency in its decision.

(i) The applicant or permittee shall be notified of the Agency's decision in accordance with Section 9(k) of the APA Regulations.