

WAC 332-30-128 Rent review. This section shall not apply to port districts managing aquatic lands under a management agreement (WAC 332-30-114).

(1) **Eligibility to request review.** Any lessee or applicant to lease or release state-owned aquatic lands may request review of any rent proposed to be charged by the department.

(2) **Dispute officers.** The manager of the marine lands division will be the rental dispute officer (RDO). The supervisor of the department, or his designee, will be the rental dispute appeals officer (RDAO).

(3) **Submittals.** A request for review of the rent (an original and two copies) shall be submitted within thirty days of notification by the department of the rent due from the lessee/applicant. The request for review shall contain sufficient information for the officers to make a decision on the appropriateness of the rent initially determined by the department. The burden of proof for showing that the rent is incorrect shall rest with the lessee/applicant.

(4) **Rental due.** The request for review shall be accompanied by one year's rent payment based on the preceding year's rate, or a portion thereof as determined by RCW 79.105.340; or based on the rate proposed by the department, or a portion thereof as determined by RCW 79.105.340, whichever is less. The applicant shall pay any additional rent or be entitled to a refund, with interest, within thirty days after completion of the review process provided in this section.

(5) **Contents of request.** The request for review shall state what the lessee/applicant believes the rent should be and shall contain, at the minimum, all necessary documentation to justify the lessee/applicant's position. This information shall include but not be limited to:

(a) **Rationale.** Why the rent established by the department is inappropriate. The supporting documentation for nonwater-dependent leases may include appraisals by professionally accredited appraisers.

(b) **Lease information.** A description of state-owned aquatic land under lease which shall include, but not be limited to:

- (i) Lease or application number;
- (ii) Map showing location of lease or proposed lease;
- (iii) Legal description of lease area including area of lease;
- (iv) The permitted or intended use on the leasehold; and
- (v) The actual or current use on the leasehold premises.

(c) **Substitute upland parcel.** A lessee/applicant whose lease rent is determined according to RCW 79.105.240 (water-dependent leases) and who disputes the choice of the upland parcel as provided by WAC 332-30-123, shall indicate the upland parcel that should be substituted in the rental determination and shall provide the following information on the parcel:

- (i) The county parcel number;
- (ii) Its assessed value;
- (iii) Its area in square feet or acres;
- (iv) A map showing the location of the parcel; and
- (v) A statement indicating the land use on the parcel and justifying why the parcel should be substituted.

(6) **RDO review.**

(a) The RDO shall evaluate the request for review within fifteen days of filing to determine if any further support materials are needed from the lessee/applicant or the department.

(b) The lessee/applicant or the department shall provide any needed materials to the RDO within thirty days of receiving a request from the RDO.

(c) The RDO may, at any time during the review, order a conference between the lessee/applicant and department staff to try to settle the rent dispute.

(d) The RDO shall issue a decision within sixty days of filing of the request. Such decision shall contain findings of fact for the decision. If a decision cannot be issued within that time, the lessee/applicant's request will automatically be granted and the rent proposed by the lessee/applicant will be the rent for the lease until the next rent revaluation; provided that, the RDO may extend the review period for one sixty-day period.

(7) RDAO review.

(a) The lessee/applicant may submit a petition within thirty days to the rental dispute appeals officer (RDAO) for review of that decision.

(b) If the RDAO declines to review the petition on the decision of the RDO, the RDO's decision shall be the final decision of the RDAO.

(c) If the RDAO consents to review the decision, the review may only consider the factual record before the RDO and the written findings and decision of the RDO. The RDAO shall issue a decision on the petition containing written findings within sixty days of the filing of the petition. The RDAO may extend the review period for one sixty-day period. This decision shall be the RDAO's final decision. This decision shall be the RDAO's final decision.

(8) Board review.

(a) The lessee/applicant may submit a petition within thirty days to the board of natural resources (board) for review of the RDAO decision.

(b) If the board declines to review the petition, the RDAO decision shall be the final decision of the board.

(c) If the board decides to review the petition, the department and the lessee/applicant shall present written statements on the final decision of the RDAO within thirty days of the decision to review. The board may request oral statements from the lessee/applicant or the department if the board decides a decision cannot be made solely on the written statements.

(d) The board shall issue a decision on the petition within ninety days of the filing of the written statements by the lessee/applicant and the department.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 79.105.360, 79.105.320. WSR 06-18-082, § 332-30-128, filed 9/5/06, effective 10/6/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 79.105.360. WSR 06-06-005 (Order 724), § 332-30-128, filed 2/16/06, effective 3/19/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 79.90.520. WSR 06-01-075 (Resolution No. 1186), § 332-30-128, filed 12/20/05, effective 1/20/06. Statutory Authority: RCW 79.90.105, 79.90.300, 79.90.455, 79.90.460, 79.90.470, 79.90.475, 79.90.520, 79.68.010, 79.68.68 [79.68.080], and chapter 79.93 RCW. WSR 85-22-066 (Resolution No. 500), § 332-30-128, filed 11/5/85.]