**Section 100.170 Hearings**

The sequence to be followed for all contested cases is as follows:

a) Status Calls and Preliminary Hearings. The purpose is to set a date on which all Parties expect to be prepared to proceed with their cases and to rule on any preliminary motions that are presented.

b) Prehearings – Optional. The purposes are set forth in Section 100.150.

c) Formal Hearings

1) Preliminary Matters – Motions, attempts to narrow issues or limit evidence.

2) Opening Statements – The Party bearing the burden of proof proceeds first.

3) Case in Chief – Evidence is presented by the Party bearing the burden of proof.

4) Defense – Evidence may be presented by the opposing Party.

5) Closing Statements – The Party bearing the burden of proof proceeds first, then the opposing Party, then a final word by the Party bearing the burden of proof.