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INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
333 MARKET STREET, 14TH FLOOR, HARRISBURG, PA 17101

October 24, 2002

Honorable Johnny J. Butler, Secretary
Department of Labor and Industry
1700 Labor and Industry Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Regulation #12-61 (IRRC #2259)
Department of Labor and Industry
Special Rules of Administrative Practice and Procedure Before the Workers'
Compensation Appeal Board and the Workers' Compensation Judges

Dear Secretary Butler:

The Independent Regulatory Review Commission approved your regulation today. Our Order is enclosed and is available on our website at www.irrc.state.pa.us.

We appreciate the joint effort that went into producing a regulation that meets the criteria and intent of the Regulatory Review Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John R. McGinley, Jr.", is written over a horizontal line.

John R. McGinley, Jr.
Chairman
wbg
Enclosure

cc: Honorable Robert J. Flick, Majority Chairman, House Labor Relations Committee
Honorable Robert E. Belfanti, Jr., Democratic Chairman, House Labor Relations Committee
Honorable Gibson E. Armstrong, Chairman, Senate Labor and Industry Committee
Honorable Christine M. Tartaglione, Minority Chairman, Senate Labor and Industry Committee

**INDEPENDENT REGULATORY REVIEW COMMISSION
APPROVAL ORDER**

Commissioners Voting:

Public Meeting Held October 24, 2002

John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman
Alvin C. Bush, Vice Chairman, by Phone
Arthur Coccodrilli
Robert J. Harbison, III
John F. Mizner

Regulation No. 12-61
Department of Labor and Industry
Special Rules of Administrative Practice and
Procedure Before the Workers' Compensation
Appeal Board and the Workers' Compensation
Judges


On March 7, 2002, the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (Commission) received this proposed regulation from the Department of Labor and Industry (Department). This rulemaking amends 34 Pa. Code Chapters 111 and 131. The proposed regulation was published in the March 23, 2002 *Pennsylvania Bulletin* with a 30-day public comment period. The final-form regulation was submitted to the Commission on September 24, 2002.

This regulation clarifies and provides detailed guidance for practice and procedure before workers' compensation judges and the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board. The regulation addresses changes made in practice and law since the last time these rules were updated in 1991.

We have determined this regulation is consistent with the statutory authority of the Department (77 §§ P.S. 710, 991(a) and (c) and 1514 and 71 § P.S. 565) and the intention of the General Assembly. Having considered all of the other criteria of the Regulatory Review Act, we find promulgation of this regulation is in the public interest.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

This regulation is approved.



John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman

