

before or during hearing, or by reference in preliminary reports or otherwise, of the material so noticed, and they shall be afforded an opportunity to contest the facts so noticed. Agencies may utilize their experience, technical competence and specialized knowledge in the evaluation of the evidence presented to them.

*224. Examination of Evidence by Agency.*

Whenever in a contested case, a majority of the officials of the agency who are to render the final decision have not heard ~~or read~~ the evidence, the decision, if adverse to a party to the proceeding other than the agency itself, shall not be made until a proposal for decision, including findings of fact and conclusions of law, has been served upon the parties, and an opportunity has been afforded to each party adversely affected to file exceptions and present argument to a majority of the officials who are to render the decision, who shall personally consider the whole record or such portions thereof as may be cited by the parties.

*225. Decisions and Orders.* Every decision and order adverse to a party to the proceedings, rendered by an agency in a contested case, shall be in writing or stated in the record and shall be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law. The findings of fact shall consist of a concise statement of the conclusions upon each contested issue of fact. A copy of the decision and order and accompanying findings and conclusions shall be delivered or mailed promptly to each party or to his attorney of record.

*226. Judicial Review of Contested Cases.*

(a) Any party aggrieved by a final decision in a contested case, whether such decision is affirmative or negative in form, is entitled to judicial review thereof under this sub-title.

(b) Proceedings for review shall be instituted by filing a petition in the Circuit Court of the County or in the Baltimore City Court, as the case may be, EITHER WHERE ANY PARTY RESIDES OR HAS HIS OR ITS PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BUSINESS, within thirty days after service of the final decision of the agency. Copies of the petition shall be served upon the agency and all other parties of record, in the manner provided by the rules of court. The court, in its discretion, may permit other interested persons to intervene.

(c) The filing of the petition shall not stay enforcement of the agency decision; but the agency may do so, or the reviewing court may order a stay upon such terms as it deems proper.

(d) Within thirty days after service of the petition, or within such further time as the court may allow, the agency shall transmit to the reviewing court the original or a certified copy of the entire record of the proceeding under review; but, by stipulation of all parties to the review proceeding, the record may be shortened. Any party unreasonably refusing to stipulate to limit the record may be taxed by the court for the additional costs. The court may require or permit subsequent corrections or additions to the record when deemed advisable.

(e) If, before the date set for hearing, application is made to the court for leave to present additional evidence on the issues in the case,