

been or is subject to any other grievance procedure established under the Act.

(c) Binding arbitration decisions under the provisions of section 144(e) of the Act are not reviewable by the Secretary.

(d) The remedies available to a grievant under binding arbitration are limited to those set forth at section 144(f)(1)(C) and (f)(2) of the Act (section 144(e)(2)).

(e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit a grievant from pursuing a remedy authorized under another Federal, State, or local law for a violation of section 143 of the Act (section 144(g)).

§ 627.605 Special Federal review of SDA- and SSG-level complaints without decision.

(a) Should the recipient fail to provide a decision as required in § 627.503 of this part, the complainant may then request from the Secretary a determination whether reasonable cause exists to believe that the Act or regulations promulgated thereunder have been violated.

(b) The Secretary shall act within 90 days of receipt of a request made pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section. Where there is reasonable cause to believe the Act or regulations promulgated thereunder have been violated, the Secretary shall direct the recipient to issue a decision adjudicating the dispute pursuant to recipient and local procedures. The Secretary's action does not constitute final agency action and is not appealable under the Act (sections 166(a) and 144(c)). If the recipient does not comply with the Secretary's order within 60 days, the Secretary may impose a sanction upon the recipient for failing to issue a decision.

(c) A request pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall be filed no later than 15 days from the date on which the complainant should have received a decision as required in § 627.503 of this part. The complaint shall contain the following:

(1) The full name, telephone number (if any), and address (if any) of the person making the complaint;

(2) The full name and address of the respondent against whom the complaint is made;

(3) A clear and concise statement of the facts, including pertinent dates, constituting the alleged violation;

(4) The provisions of the Act, regulations promulgated thereunder, grant, or other agreement under the Act believed to have been violated;

(5) A statement disclosing whether proceedings involving the subject of the request have been commenced or concluded before any Federal, State, or local authority, and, if so, the date of such commencement or conclusion, the name and address of the authority, and the style of the case; and

(6) A statement of the date the complaint was filed with the recipient, the date on which the recipient should have issued decision, and an attestation that no decision was issued.

(d)(1) A request pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section will be considered to have been filed when the Secretary receives from the complainant a written statement sufficiently precise to evaluate the complaint and the grievance procedure used by the recipient, the SDA, or the SSG.

(2) When an imprecise request is received within the 15-day period prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section, the Secretary may extend the period for submission.

§ 627.606 Grant Officer resolution.

(a) When the Grant Officer is dissatisfied with the State's disposition of an audit, as specified in § 627.481 of this part, or other resolution of violations (including those arising out of incident reports or compliance reviews), with the recipient's response to findings resulting from investigations pursuant to § 627.503 of this part, or if the recipient fails to comply with the Secretary's decision pursuant to § 627.605(b) of this part, the initial and final determination process shall be used to resolve the matter.

(b) *Initial determination.* The Grant Officer shall make an initial determination on the findings for both those matters where there is agreement and those where there is disagreement with the recipient's resolution, including the allowability of questioned costs or