Agency: U.S. Commission on Civil Rights

Report No.: 18-55I Date: September 25, 2018

Period Covered by Review: January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017



1.0	AGENCY DATA	
	EMPLOYEES	
1.1	Number of full-time agency employees.	28
1.2	Number of Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed (PAS) public financial disclosure reports required to be filed.	0
1.3	Number of non-PAS public financial disclosure reports required to be filed.	24
1.4	Number of confidential financial disclosure reports required to be filed.	3
	ETHICS PROGRAM	
1.4	Title of Designated Agency Ethics Official (DAEO).	General Counsel
1.5	Grade level of DAEO.	GS15
1.6	Title of Alternate DAEO (ADAEO).	Senior Attorney Advisor
1.7	Grade level of ADAEO.	GS14
1.8	Title of the primary, day-to-day ethics program administrator.	General Counsel
1.9	Grade level of the primary, day-to-day ethics program administrator.	GS15
1.10	Current number of full-time ethics officials.	0
1.11	Current number of part-time ethics officials.	5
1.12	Number of reporting levels between the DAEO and the agency head.	1
	COMMENTS	
	None	

2.0	LEADERSHIP			
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	Yes	No	N/A
2.1	OGE has received an up-to-date designation from the agency head naming the DAEO. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.202(c).	\boxtimes		
2.2	OGE has received an up-to-date designation from the agency head naming the ADAEO. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.202(c).	\boxtimes		
	COMMENTS			
	None			

3.0	PUBLIC FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE (OGE Form 278e, OGE Form 278-T)				
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	Yes	No	N/A	
	The agency has written policies and procedures in place governing: See 5 U.S.C. app. IV, § 402(d)(1).				
3.1	Collection of public financial disclosure reports.	\boxtimes			
3.2	Review/evaluation of public financial disclosure reports.	\boxtimes			
3.3	Public availability of public financial disclosure reports.	\boxtimes			
3.4	The agency can demonstrate that late filing fees are collected or, where appropriate, waivers are issued when public filers do not timely file financial disclosure reports.	\boxtimes			

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	Public financial disclosure reports are securely maintained. See OGE/GOVT-1.			L
6	Public financial disclosure reports are retained in accordance with the retention requirements. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.603(g)(1).		\boxtimes	
7	There is reasonable assurance that the lead human resources official or designee promptly (no later than 15 days after appointment) notifies the DAEO of all appointments to positions that require incumbents to file public financial disclosure reports. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.105(a)(1).	\boxtimes		
8	There is reasonable assurance that the lead human resources official or designee promptly (no later than 15 days after termination) notified the DAEO of terminations of employees in positions that require incumbents to file public financial disclosure reports. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.105(a)(2).	\boxtimes		
	DATA ANALYSIS		%	
9	Percentage of sampled non-PAS new entrant reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(b).		75%	
10	Percentage of sampled non-PAS annual reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(a).		75%	
11	Percentage of sampled non-PAS termination reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(e).		100%	
12	Percentage of sampled non-PAS public financial disclosure reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		17%	
13	Percentage of sampled non-PAS public financial disclosure reports certified within 60 days of receipt. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		17%	
14	Percentage of sampled PAS annual reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(a).		NA	
15	Percentage of sampled PAS termination reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(e).		NA	
16	Percentage of sampled PAS annual and termination reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		NA	
17	Percentage of sampled PAS annual and termination reports certified within 60 days of receipt. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		NA	
	COMMENTS			
_	(3.6) While the Commission on Civil Rights (USCCR) did not retain any paper reports older than the required retention there were such reports stored electronically. The DAEO confirmed that these reports were destroyed prior to the close of			

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4.0	CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE					
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	Yes	No	N/A		
	The agency has written policies and procedures in place governing: See 5 U.S.C app. IV, § 402(d)(1).					
4.01	Collection of confidential financial disclosure reports.	\boxtimes				
4.2	Review/evaluation of confidential financial disclosure reports.	\boxtimes				
4.3	Confidential financial disclosure reports are securely maintained. See OGE/GOVT-2.	\boxtimes				
4.4	Confidential financial disclosure reports are retained in accordance with the retention requirements. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.604.		\boxtimes			
4.5	The agency's OGE-approved alternative confidential financial disclosure system complies with plans approved by OGE. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.905(a).	\boxtimes				
4.6	There is reasonable assurance that the lead human resources official or designee promptly (no later than 15 days after appointment) notifies the DAEO of all appointments to positions that require incumbents to file confidential financial disclosure reports. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.105(a)(1).					
	DATA ANALYSIS		%			
4.7	Percentage of sampled confidential new entrant reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(b).		NA			
4.8	Percentage of sampled confidential annual reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(a).		67%			
4.9	Percentage of sampled reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		100%			
4.10	Percentage of sampled confidential financial disclosure reports certified within 60 days of receipt. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. §§ 2634.605(a) and 2634.909(a).		100%			
	COMMENTS					
	(4.4) While USCCR did not retain any paper reports older than the required retention period, there were such reports stored electronically. The DAEO confirmed that these reports were destroyed prior to the close of OGE's inspection.					
	(4.7) USCCR did not have any confidential new entrant report filers during the period covered by the inspection.					
	(4.8) USCCR had three confidential annual report filers. Two of the reports were filed timely while one report was filed less than a week late.					

5.0	Notices to Prospective Employees			
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	Yes	No	N/A
	Written offers of employment for positions covered by the Standards of Conduct provide: See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.303.			
5.1	A statement regarding the agency's commitment to government ethics.			
5.2	 Notice that the individual will be subject to the Standards of Conduct and the criminal conflict of interest statutes as an employee. 			
5.3	 Contact information for an appropriate agency ethics office or an explanation of how to obtain additional information on applicable ethics requirements. 			
5.4	Where applicable, notice of the time frame for completing initial ethics training.			
5.5	 Where applicable, a statement regarding financial disclosure requirements and an explanation that new entrant reports must be filed within 30 days of appointment. 			
5.6	The agency has established written procedures for issuing the notice to prospective employees. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.303(c).			

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		1	1
5.7	The agency's written procedures are reviewed by the DAEO each year. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.303(c).		
5.8	The agency can demonstrate that there is an effective process for ensuring all covered employees receive the required information with their written offer of employment. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.303.	\boxtimes	
	COMMENTS		
	None		

6.0	Notices to New Supervisors			
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	Yes	No	N/A
	The agency provides each employee upon initial appointment to a supervisory position with: See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.306.			
6.1	Contact information for the agency's ethics office.	\boxtimes		
6.2	• The text of 5 C.F.R. § 2638.103.	\boxtimes		
6.3	A copy of, a hyperlink to, or the address of a Web site containing the Principles of Ethical Conduct.	\boxtimes		
6.4	Other information the DAEO deems necessary.			\boxtimes
6.5	The agency has established written procedures for supervisory ethics notices. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.306(d).	\boxtimes		
6.6	The agency's written procedures are reviewed by the DAEO each year. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.306(d).	\boxtimes		
6.7	The agency can demonstrate that there is an effective process for ensuring that new supervisors receive the required information within one year of appointment. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.306(b).	\boxtimes		
	COMMENTS			
	None	•	•	

7.0	Initial Ethics Training				
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	Yes	No	N/A	
	Each new employee of the agency subject to the Standards of Conduct must complete initial ethics training. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304.				
7.1	The training presentation(s) addressed concepts related to conflicts of interest, impartiality, misuse of position and gifts. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(e)(1).	\boxtimes			
7.2	The agency provided new employees with either the following written materials or written instruction for accessing them: The summary of the Standards of Conduct distributed by the Office of Government Ethics or an equivalent summary prepared by the agency; provisions of any supplemental agency regulation that the DAEO determines to be relevant or a summary of those provisions; such other written materials as the DAEO determines should be included; instructions for contacting the agency's ethics officials. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(e)(2).				
7.3	The agency has established written procedures for initial ethics training. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(f).	\boxtimes			
7.4	The agency's written procedures are reviewed by the DAEO each year. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(f).	\boxtimes			
	DATA ANALYSIS		%		
7.5	Percentage of new employees who received initial ethics training. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304.		90%		
7.6	Percentage of new employees who received initial ethics training within three months of appointment. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(b).		90%		

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COMMENTS
(7.2) While USCCR provided new employees written material that contained instructions for contacting ethics officials and information on accessing the agency's supplemental regulations, the material did not contain instructions for accessing a summary of the Standards of
Conduct distributed by the Office of Government Ethics or an equivalent summary.

8.0	Annual Ethics Training					
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	Yes	No	N/A		
	Each calendar year, public filers, confidential filers, and certain other employees must complete ethics training which meets specified requirements. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307 and 2638.308.					
8.1	The training presentation(s) addressed concepts related to financial conflicts of interest, impartiality, misuse of position and gifts. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307(e)(1) and 2638.308(f)(1).		\boxtimes			
8.2	The agency provided employees with either the following written materials or written instruction for accessing them: The summary of the Standards of Conduct distributed by the Office of Government Ethics or an equivalent summary prepared by the agency; provisions of any supplemental agency regulation that the DAEO determines to be relevant or a summary of those provisions; such other written materials as the DAEO determines should be included; instructions for contacting the agency's ethics officials. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(f)(2).		\boxtimes			
8.3	The agency's annual ethics training complies with the formatting requirements for public filers, confidential filers, ar certain other employees. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307(d) and 2638.308(e).	d \square	\boxtimes			
8.4	The agency's program for annual ethics training complies with the tracking requirements for public filers, confidential filers, and certain other employees. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307(f) and 2638.308(g).		\boxtimes			
8.5	The agency can demonstrate it has an effective process for ensuring covered public filers, other than those whose pay is set at Level I or Level II of the Executive Schedule, complete live annual ethics training at least once every two years. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(e)(2).		\boxtimes			
	Employee Information and Annual Ethics Training		ng Fori	mat		
			Live Interact			
	Percentage of public filers who completed annual ethics training before the end of the calendar year. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(a).					
8.6	Executive Schedule Level I and Level II. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(e)(1).	NA	1	NA		
8.7	• Other PAS and Equivalent. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(e)(2).	NA]	NA		
8.8	• SES and Equivalent. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(e)(3).	0%	6 0%			
	Percentage of confidential filers and certain other employees who completed annual ethics train before the end of the calendar year. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(d).	ng				
8.9	 Employees required to file an annual confidential financial disclosure report. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(1). 	0%	(0%		
8.10	Employees appointed by the President. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(2).	0%	(0%		
8.11	Employees of the Executive Office of the President. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(2).	0%	(0%		
8.12	Contracting officers described in 41 U.S.C. § 2101. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(3).	0%	(0%		
8.13	Other employees designated by the head of the agency. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(4).	0%	(0%		
	COMMENTS					
	(8.1 to 8.13) USCCR did not provide annual ethics training to covered employees during the period covered by the inspection. The DAEO stated that all covered employees are scheduled to receive annual ethics training during October 2018.					

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9.0	ETHICS ADVICE AND COUNSELING					
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENT	Yes	No	N/A		
9.1	Based on a sample collected by OGE, guidance provided by agency ethics officials to employees appears to be consistent with applicable laws and regulations. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.104(c)(4).	\boxtimes				
	COMMENTS					
	None					

10.0	Special Government Employees (SGE) Serving on Advisory Committees and Boards						
	Confidential Financial Disclosure						
10.1	Number of SGEs serving on Advisory Committees and Boards.		667				
	DATA ANALYSIS		%				
10.2	Percentage of sampled confidential new entrant reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(b).		4%				
10.3	Percentage of sampled reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt but not later than the SGE's first meeting. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).	21%					
10.4	Percentage of sampled reports certified within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		21%				
	Ethics Training						
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	Yes	No	N/A			
	Required ethics training must be provided to each SGE. See 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.304 and 2638.307.						
10.5	The training presentation(s) addressed concepts related to conflicts of interest, impartiality, misuse of position and gifts. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(e)(1).	\boxtimes					
10.6	The agency provided employees with either the following written materials or written instruction for accessing them: The summary of the Standards of Conduct distributed by the Office of Government Ethics or an equivalent summary prepared by the agency; provisions of any supplemental agency regulation that the DAEO determines to be relevant or a summary of those provisions; such other written materials as the DAEO determines should be included; instructions for contacting the agency's ethics officials. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(e)(2).						
	DATA ANALYSIS	%					
10.7	Percentage of SGEs who received initial ethics training. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304.		0				
10.8	Percentage of SGEs who received initial ethics training timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(b)(2).		0				
10.9	Percentage of SGEs who received annual ethics training. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(d)(2).		91%				
	COMMENTS						
	(10.1) USCCR used the OGE-approved Conflict-of-Interest-Statement for its SGE financial disclosure report filers. (10.2) USCCR has SGEs serving on 51 regional advisory committees in 6 regions across the United States. In 2016 USCCR's then ADAEO forwarded to the regions templates for tracking financial disclosure filing and ethics training. Based on OGE's review, only one of the six regions consistently tracked the financial disclosure filing due dates in USCCR's tracking spreadsheets. Therefore, OGE was unable to determine the due dates for financial disclosure reports at five of the six regions and could not assess the reports' filing timeliness. The submission of Conflict-of-Interest-Statements should be tracked and documented in a way that allows ethics officials to maintain awareness of which Conflict-of-Interest-Statements have been filed and which ones remain outstanding. Additionally, two reports selected by OGE for examination were not provided while four other reports provided were reports for years prior						

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to the period covered by the inspection.

(10.3 - 10.4) In 2015 USCCR's then ADAEO provided to the regions training along with instructions on reviewing and certifying the OGE-approved Conflict-of-Interest-Statement for USCCR SGEs. Report certifiers however did not sign the vast majority of the reports OGE selected for examination. OGE therefore was unable to assess certification timeliness for these reports. According to the DAEO there was confusion within the regions regarding the certification of the reports.

(10.6) OGE was unable to determine what written materials, if any, were provided to the SGEs.

(10.7 - 10.8) USCCR could not verify whether SGEs received initial ethics training.

	RECOM	RECOMMENDATION(S)				
#	Element	RECOMMENDATION	Compliance Due			
1	(3.9)	RECOMMENDATION: Ensure public reports are filed, reviewed, and certified timely. AGENCY RESPONSE: All reports for CY2016 have been reviewed and certified. All required reports have been filed, except for one for CY2017. That filer has been reminded of the requirement to file and assessed the \$200 filing fee. In addition, all filed reports for CY2017 have been reviewed and certified. Going forward, additional reminders will be provided to filers and offers to have the contract provider for our online filing system (FDOnline) available to assist with the technical aspects of filing reports before the filing deadline has passed. The DAEO has also emphasized the need for timely review and certification to the ADAEO.	July 2019			
2	(7.2)	RECOMMENDATION: Provide all new employees written material containing instructions for accessing a summary of the Standards of Conduct distributed by the Office of Government Ethics or an equivalent summary AGENCY RESPONSE: The DAEO has updated the Commission's initial ethics training to include this information.	July 2019			
3	(8.1- 8.13)	RECOMMENDATION: Provide annual ethics training to all covered employees. AGENCY RESPONSE: Training for public filers and confidential filers has been scheduled for October 2018 (with back up dates). Other employees will receive non-interactive training this year.	July 2019			
4	(10.2)	RECOMMENDATION: Ensure Conflict-of-Interest-Statements filed by SGEs are filed, reviewed, and certified timely. AGENCY RESPONSE: The DAEO will work with the Staff Director (who oversees the Chief of the Regional Staff) to put in place a process for this to occur. In addition, the DAEO or ADAEO will again provide training to regional staff on filing, reviewing and certifying these reports.	July 2019			

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5	(10.2)	RECOMMENDATION: Ensure that the submission of Conflict-of-Interest-Statements throughout USCCR is tracked and documented. AGENCY RESPONSE: The DAEO will work with the Staff Director (who oversees the Chief of the Regional Staff) to have the tracking sheets filled out and updated. The DAEO and ADAEO will circulate tracking templates to regional staff.	July 2019
6	(10.6)	RECOMMENDATION: Provide all Advisory Committee SGEs written material containing instructions for accessing a summary of the Standards of Conduct distributed by the Office of Government Ethics or an equivalent summary AGENCY RESPONSE: The DAEO and ADAEO will provide information to regional ethics staff to be distributed to Advisory Committee SGEs. The Staff Director will work with the Chief of the Regional Staff to implement the distribution.	July 2019
7	(10.7, 10.8)	RECOMMENDATION: Provide all initially appointed Advisory Committee SGEs initial ethics training. AGENCY RESPONSE: The DAEO and ADAEO will provide guidance to regional staff for initial ethics training. The Staff Director will work with the Chief of the Regional Staff to complete initial ethics training following appointment.	July 2019