

ETHICS PROGRAM REVIEW FOLLOW-UP REPORT

Agency: U.S. Department of Energy

Follow-up to OGE Report Number: 24-54

Report No.: 26-02F

Date: January 9, 2026

**UNITED STATES OFFICE OF
GOVERNMENT ETHICS**Preventing Conflicts of Interest
in the Executive Branch

As a result of its review of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) ethics program, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued five recommendations in its August 2024 program review report. OGE conducted a follow-up review to assess whether DOE has taken sufficient action to resolve the deficiencies underlying these recommendations. The results of the follow-up review are summarized below.

	Recommendation	Agency Action and OGE Finding	Status
1	Ensure that notices to prospective employees include notice that initial ethics training must be completed within three months.	OGE reviewed a sample of eight notices issued to prospective employees at DOE headquarters and found that they included the required information specifying the deadline for initial ethics training.	Closed
2	Ensure all new employees receive initial ethics training within three months of appointment.	DOE headquarters had 317 new employees in 2024. OGE's review found that 99% (316 out of 317) completed initial ethics training and 97% (307 out of 316) completed it timely.	Closed
3	Collect the filer signatures for four reports provided and include a separate note with each report that explains the signatures and dates were collected after the original submission date. These notes should also include the original submission date. In addition, ensure that all future SGE reports contain the required information.	<p>DOE ethics officials confirmed the four filers' signatures were never collected as required. As a result, four SGEs were allowed to participate (for over a year) in ASCAC meetings and business without filing a financial disclosure report. Financial disclosure reports, when signed, provide filer attestation of assets, liabilities and outside positions. The signed disclosures are reviewed for conflicts of interest with SGE's official duties in the Federal Government. DOE ethics officials have been advised to document attempts to obtain signature until the retention period ends.</p> <p>OGE is closing this recommendation based on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Collecting SGE filer signatures ceased to be an issue after the Department began requiring SGEs to file reports online via a financial disclosure system (after OGE's 2024 program review).2. The same four filers signed their most recent reports (2025) before the termination of the Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC) in mid-2025.3. OGE examined a sample of 2025 SGE confidential financial disclosure reports and did find that 100% (24 out of 24) were signed by the filer as required.	Closed

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4	Ensure that all SGE FACA committee reports are certified timely.	<p>In 2024, OGE found that 81% of the Basic Energy Science Advisory Committee (BESAC) SGE reports and 80% of the Advanced Scientific Computing Advisory Committee (ASCAC) SGE reports were certified timely.</p> <p>In 2025, both committees were terminated. ASCAC SGE members were required to file confidential financial disclosure reports to attend the final meeting in January 2025. OGE found that 100% (24 out of 24) SGE reports were certified timely.</p>	Closed
5	Ensure that Nuclear Energy Advisory Committee's (NEAC) SGE members receive initial ethics training before the first meeting of the year.	The NEAC had eight SGE members that required ethics training in 2025. OGE's review found that 100% (8 out of 8) completed ethics training and 100% (8 out of 8) completed it timely.	Closed

Based on the results of OGE's follow-up review, all recommendations are closed.