Agency: International Boundary and Water Commission, US Section

Report No.: 22-01I Date: November 8, 2021

Period Covered by Review: January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021



1.0	AGENCY DATA	
	EMPLOYEES	
1.1	Number of full-time agency employees.	237
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.	3
1.4	Number of confidential financial disclosure reports required to be filed.	60
ı	ETHICS PROGRAM	
1.5	Title of Designated Agency Ethics Official (DAEO).	Chief Counsel
1.6	Grade level of DAEO.	15
1.7	Title of Alternate DAEO (ADAEO).	Assistant Attorney
1.8	Grade level of ADAEO.	14
1.9	Title of the primary, day-to-day ethics program administrator.	Chief Counsel
1.10	Grade level of the primary, day-to-day ethics program administrator.	15
1.11	Current number of full-time ethics officials.	0
1.12	Current number of part-time ethics officials.	2
1.13	Number of reporting levels between the DAEO and the agency head.	1
	COMMENTS	
	 (1.2): IBWC does not have PAS positions. (1.3): Only two non-PAS public financial disclosure reports were required to be filed in 2020. Three public required to be filed between January 1- September 30, 2021. (1.5): At the time of the inspection, the Chief Counsel had served as the IBWC DAEO for 18 months and of government ethics. 	

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. § 2638.107(a).	\boxtimes		
2.2	OGE has received an up-to-date designation from the agency head naming the ADAEO. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.107(a).	\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.			



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.			
3.5	Public financial disclosure reports are securely maintained. See OGE/GOVT-1.	\boxtimes		
3.6	Public financial disclosure reports are retained in accordance with the retention requirements. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.603(g)(1).			
3.7	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. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.105(a)(1).	\boxtimes		
3.8	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		%	
3.9	Percentage of sampled non-PAS new entrant reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(b).		N/A	
3.10	Percentage of sampled non-PAS annual reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(a).		100%	
3.11	Percentage of sampled non-PAS termination reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(e).		0%	
3.12	Percentage of sampled non-PAS public financial disclosure reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		100%	
3.13	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).		100%	
3.14	Percentage of sampled PAS annual reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(a).		N/A	
3.15	Percentage of sampled PAS termination reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(e).		N/A	
3.16	Percentage of sampled PAS annual and termination reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		N/A	
3.17	Percentage of sampled PAS annual and termination reports certified within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		N/A	
	COMMENTS			
	(3.1 - 3.3): IBWC procedures for administering the public financial disclosure system do not address the collection of terms the requirement to certify reports within 60 days of submission, or the process for making reports available to the public. (3.4): During the inspection, OGE learned that ethics officials had not collected a termination report required to be filed to who left her position in April 2021. The DAEO explained that she did not know that the filer needed to file a termination days of her departure. Subsequently, the DAEO informed the filer of this requirement and the filer submitted her terminal September 2021. The DAEO waived the late filing fee. (3.9-3.13) OGE examined the termination report noted above and the one annual report required to be filed in 2021. One was due to be filed after OGE concluded the fieldwork for the review.	oy a Co report tion rep	ommission within 3 port in	oner 80

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).			
4.1	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. See 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. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.105(a)(1).		\boxtimes	
	DATA ANALYSIS		%	
4.7	Percentage of sampled confidential new entrant reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(b).		0%	
4.8	Percentage of sampled confidential annual reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(a).		91%	
4.9	Percentage of sampled reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		38%	
4.10	Percentage of sampled confidential financial disclosure reports certified within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. §§ 2634.605(a) and 2634.909(a).		38%	
	COMMENTS			
	(4.5): IBWC does not use an OGE-approved alternative confidential financial disclosure system. (4.6-4.7): OGE requested IBWC provide all of the new entrant confidential reports required to be filed in the 12 months inspection. The DAEO indicated that she believed new entrant reports were required to be filed within that timeframe but them. Because of OGE's request, the DAEO reached out to the office of Human Resources (HR) to determine why they new entrant confidential reports. HR informed her that they had initiated a new process. The new process called for the I new employees who had entered positions whose incumbents were required to file confidential reports. The DAEO explication inform her of this new procedure before her inquiry. The DAEO stated she is checking with all new employees to lear informed them that they were filers based on their position description (PD) and given an OGE form 450 to complete. The with HR to establish a process for notifying ethics officials of appointments to positions that require incumbents to file confidential as confidential filers. Additionally, the DAEO indicated that while reviewing the master list of confidential file OGE as part of the inspection, it became apparent to her that reviewing PD's and re-evaluating who should file reports priority. OGE encourages agencies to periodically review the designation of confidential filers to ensure they meet the file (4.9 & 4.10): OGE reviewed 22 annual confidential reports. Only 7 (32%) were certified within 60 days of receipt. The I she thought that the 60 day timeframe for review and certification always started from, the general due date for annual refrom the date a report is submitted. The general due date for annual confidential reports is February 15. However, in 202 a holiday and, therefore, the general due date was February 16.	tt she di had not DAEO t lained t lained t lained t earn whe he DAE confider m emplo ers that was goir ling cri DAEO (eports, 1	id not hat t sent he to reach that HR of ther HR GO is wontial finatoyees she proving to be a teria.	r the out to did orking ncial vided a dthat an

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.	\boxtimes				
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. 	\boxtimes				
5.4	Where applicable, notice of the time frame for completing initial ethics training.	\boxtimes				
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).	\boxtimes		
5.7	The agency's written procedures are reviewed by the DAEO each year. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.303(c).	\boxtimes		
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. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.303.		\boxtimes	
	COMMENTS			
	(5.5): OGE reviewed a written offer of employment extended to an IBWC employee. The sample did not contain a stater financial disclosure requirements or an explanation that new entrant reports must be filed within 30 days of appointment.		garding	

	,			
6.0	NOTICES TO NEW SUPERVISORS			
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	Yes	No	N/A
	The agency must provide each employee upon initial appointment to a supervisory position with: See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.3	06.		
6.1	Contact information for the agency's ethics office.			
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. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.306(b).		\boxtimes	
	COMMENTS			
	(6.1-6.4, 6.7): IBWC has written procedures for sending notices to new supervisors via email. An email is to be sent at agency employees containing the required ethics related materials to new supervisors. However, IBWC could not provid required information was provided to new supervisors during the period covered by this review.			

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. See 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. See 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).	\boxtimes		
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).			

Agency: International Boundary and Water Commission, US Section

Report No.: 22-01I Date: November 8, 2021

Period Covered by Review: January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021



ı	DATA ANALYSIS	%		
7.5	Percentage of new employees who received initial ethics training. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304.	48%		
7.6	Percentage of new employees who received initial ethics training within three months of appointment. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(b).	39%		
	COMMENTS			
	(7.5-7.6) IBWC began keeping track of initial ethics training (IET) in 2020. Ethics officials explained that it was very different employees electronically sign and route the sign-in sheets that were circulated and thus, not all IET attendees were tracked IBWC instruct employees to confirm IET completion by sending an email to ethics officials stating they had completed the providing the date training was received.	e tracked. OGE suggests		

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 whic meets specified requirements. See 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307 and 2638.308.	h				
8.1	The training presentation(s) addressed concepts related to financial conflicts of interest, impartiality, misuse of position and gifts. See 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 a summary of those provisions; such other written materials as the DAEO determines should be included; instruction for contacting the agency's ethics officials. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(e)(2).	or or	\boxtimes			
8.3	The agency's annual ethics training complies with the formatting requirements for public filers, confidential filers, a certain other employees. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307(d) and 2638.308(e).	nd	\boxtimes			
8.4	The agency's program for annual ethics training complies with the tracking requirements for public filers, confident filers, and certain other employees. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307(f) and 2638.308(g).	ial	\boxtimes			
8.5	The agency can demonstrate it has an effective process for ensuring covered public filers, other than those whose pa 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).	у				
	DATE ANALYSIS	T	raini	ng Fori	nat	
	DATA ANALYSIS	L	ive	Interactive		
	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).	N/A		N/A		
8.7	Other PAS and Equivalent. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(e)(2).	N/A		N/A		
8.8	• SES and Equivalent. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(e)(3).	100%	%	N/A		
	Percentage of confidential filers and certain other employees who completed annual ethics training before the end of the calendar year. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(d).					
8.9	 Employees required to file an annual confidential financial disclosure report. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(1). 	95%		N/A	ı	
8.10	Employees appointed by the President. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(2).	N/A		N/A		
8.11	Employees of the Executive Office of the President. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(2).	N/A		N/A	ı	
8.12	 Contracting officers described in 41 U.S.C. § 2101. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(3). 	N/A		N/A		



8.13	Other employees designated by the head of the agency. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(4).	N/A	N/A		
	COMMENTS				
	 (8.6): IBWC does not have Executive Schedule Level I or Level II employees. (8.7): IBWC does not have PAS or Equivalent officials. (8.9): OGE reviewed the training records of 22 confidential filers, the sample of employees whose annual financial disclosure reports OGE examined. OGE verified that 21 (95%) of the confidential filers received training. 				

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).				
	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.	0					
	DATA ANALYSIS	%					
10.2	Percentage of sampled confidential new entrant reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(b).	N/A					
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).	N/A					
10.4	Percentage of sampled reports certified within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).	N/A					
	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. See 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).			\boxtimes			
	DATA ANALYSIS		%				
10.7	Percentage of SGEs who received initial ethics training. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304.	N/A					
10.8	Percentage of SGEs who received initial ethics training timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(b)(2).	N/A					
10.9	Percentage of SGEs who received annual ethics training. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(d)(2).	N/A					
	COMMENTS						
	(10.2-10.4) IBWC does not have SGEs.						

Agency: International Boundary and Water Commission, US Section

Report No.: 22-01I Date: November 8, 2021

Period Covered by Review: January 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021



ISSUES IDENTIFIED AND RESOLVED DURING THE INSPECTION					
Element	ISSUE				
3.4	ISSUE: During the inspection, OGE learned that ethics officials have not collected the only termination report required to be filed. The DAEO explained that she did not know that the filer needed to file a termination report within 30 days of her departure. AGENCY RESPONSE: Subsequently, the DAEO informed the filer of this requirement and the filer submitted her termination report.				

	RECOM	RECOMMENDATIONS			
#	Element	RECOMMENDATION	Compliance Due		
1	3.1 - 3.3	<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Revise public financial disclosure written procedures to include the requirements for the submission of termination reports, the certification of reports within 60 days and the policies to ensure the public availability of public financial disclosure reports.	May 8, 2022		
2	4.6	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u> : Develop a process to ensure 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.	May 8, 2022		
3	4.7	RECOMMENDATION: Ensure that new entrant confidential reports are filed and reviewed timely.	May 8, 2022		
4	4.9 & 4.10	RECOMMENDATION: Ensure that confidential reports are reviewed and certified timely.	May 8, 2022		
5	5.5	<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Ensure that written offers of employment for positions covered by the Standards of Conduct provide a statement regarding financial disclosure requirements and an explanation that new entrant reports must be filed within 30 days of appointment, where applicable.	May 8, 2022		
6	6.1-6.4, 6.7	<u>RECOMMENDATION:</u> Ensure that each employee upon initial appointment to a supervisory position are given the required ethics-related materials in accordance with 5 C.F.R. § 2638.306.	May 8, 2022		
7	7.5 & 7.6	RECOMMENDATION: Ensure and track that new employees receive initial ethics training within three months of appointment.	May 8, 2022		
	AGENC	Y COMMENTS			

IBWC agreed with OGE's recommendations and had no substantive comments.