

ETHICS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT

Agency: Southeast Crescent Regional Commission

Report No.: 25-871

Date: September 8, 2025

Period Covered by Review: January 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025

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

1.0	AGENCY DATA		
	EMPLOYEES		
1.1	Number of full-time agency employees.		1
1.2	Number of Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed (PAS) public financial disclosure reports required to be filed.		1
1.3	Number of non-PAS public financial disclosure reports required to be filed.		0
1.4	Number of confidential financial disclosure reports required to be filed.		0
	ETHICS PROGRAM		
1.5	Title of Designated Agency Ethics Official (DAEO).		Federal Co-Chair
1.6	Grade level of DAEO.		Executive Schedule
1.7	Title of Alternate DAEO (ADAEO).		Vacant
1.8	Grade level of ADAEO.		N/A
1.9	Title of the primary, day-to-day ethics program administrator.		Federal Co-Chair
1.10	Grade level of the primary, day-to-day ethics program administrator.		Executive Schedule
1.11	Current number of full-time ethics officials.		0
1.12	Current number of part-time ethics officials.		1
1.13	Number of reporting levels between the DAEO and the agency head.		0
	COMMENTS		
	(1.7 – 1.8) The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission (SCRC) has two Federal positions, the Federal Co-Chair and the Chief of Staff. The Federal Co-Chair is the DAEO while the official serving as the Chief of Staff is the ADAEO. SCRC's Chief of Staff position has been vacant since January 2025.		

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. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.107(a).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2	OGE has received an up-to-date designation from the agency head naming the ADAEO. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.107(a).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	COMMENTS			
	(2.2) SCRC's ADAEO position is currently vacant.			

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: <i>See</i> 5 U.S.C. app. IV, § 402(d)(1).			
3.1	• Collection of public financial disclosure reports.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.2	• Review/evaluation of public financial disclosure reports.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.3	• Public availability of public financial disclosure reports.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3.5	Public financial disclosure reports are securely maintained. <i>See</i> OGE/GOVT-1.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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3.6	Public financial disclosure reports are retained in accordance with the retention requirements. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.603(g)(1).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.105(a)(1).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DATA ANALYSIS		%		
3.9	Percentage of sampled non-PAS new entrant reports filed timely. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(b).	N/A		
3.10	Percentage of sampled non-PAS annual reports filed timely. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(a).	N/A		
3.11	Percentage of sampled non-PAS termination reports filed timely. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(e).	N/A		
3.12	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).	N/A		
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).	N/A		
3.14	Percentage of sampled PAS annual reports filed timely. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.201(a).	100%		
3.15	Percentage of sampled PAS termination reports filed timely. <i>See</i> 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. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).	100%		
3.17	Percentage of sampled PAS annual and termination reports certified within 60 days of receipt. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).	100%		
COMMENTS				
(3.4) SCRC did not have any reports subject to the late filing fee. (3.9 – 3.13, 3.15) SCRC did not have any officials under these categories during the period covered by the inspection.				

4.0	CONFIDENTIAL FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE			
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS	Yes	No	N/A
	The agency has written policies and procedures in place governing: <i>See</i> 5 U.S.C app. IV, § 402(d)(1).			
4.1	• Collection of confidential financial disclosure reports.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.2	• Review/evaluation of confidential financial disclosure reports.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.3	Confidential financial disclosure reports are securely maintained. <i>See</i> OGE/GOVT-2.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.4	Confidential financial disclosure reports are retained in accordance with the retention requirements. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.604.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4.5	The agency's OGE-approved alternative confidential financial disclosure system complies with plans approved by OGE. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.905(a).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
DATA ANALYSIS		%		
4.7	Percentage of sampled confidential new entrant reports filed timely. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(b).	N/A		
4.8	Percentage of sampled confidential annual reports filed timely. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(a).	N/A		

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4.9	Percentage of sampled reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).	N/A
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).	N/A
COMMENTS		
(4.1 – 4.10) SCRC does not have any confidential filing positions.		

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: <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.303.				
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A statement regarding the agency's commitment to government ethics.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Notice that the individual will be subject to the Standards of Conduct and the criminal conflict of interest statutes as an employee.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contact information for an appropriate agency ethics office or an explanation of how to obtain additional information on applicable ethics requirements.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where applicable, notice of the time frame for completing initial ethics training.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Where applicable, a statement regarding financial disclosure requirements and an explanation that new entrant reports must be filed within 30 days of appointment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5.7	The agency's written procedures are reviewed by the DAEO each year. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.303(c).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COMMENTS				
(5.1 – 5.8) SCRC did not have any new hires during the period covered by the inspection. SCRC also did not have procedures established for notices to prospective employees. OGE assisted SCRC in establishing the written procedures and the DAEO agreed to review the procedures annually.				

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: <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.306.				
6.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Contact information for the agency's ethics office.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The text of 5 C.F.R. § 2638.103.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A copy of, a hyperlink to, or the address of a Web site containing the Principles of Ethical Conduct.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Other information the DAEO deems necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6.5	The agency has established written procedures for supervisory ethics notices. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.306(d).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6.6	The agency's written procedures are reviewed by the DAEO each year. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.306(d).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
COMMENTS				

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(6.1 – 6.7) SCRC did not have any new supervisors during the period covered by the inspection. SCRC also did not have procedures established for notices to new supervisors. OGE assisted SCRC in establishing the written procedures and the DAEO agreed to review the procedures annually.

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).*

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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. *See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(e)(2).*

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7.3 The agency has established written procedures for initial ethics training. *See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(f).*

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7.4 The agency's written procedures are reviewed by the DAEO each year. *See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(f).*

☐☒☐**DATA ANALYSIS****%**

7.5 Percentage of new employees who received initial ethics training. *See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304.*

N/A

7.6 Percentage of new employees who received initial ethics training within three months of appointment. *See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(b).*

N/A

COMMENTS

(7.1-7.6) SCRC did not hire any new employees during the period covered by the inspection. SCRC also did not have training materials or procedures established for initial ethics training. OGE assisted SCRC in developing the training material and establishing the written procedures. SCRC's DAEO agreed to review the procedures annually.

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. *See 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. *See 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307(e)(1) and 2638.308(f)(1).*

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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(e)(2).*

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8.3 The agency's annual ethics training complies with the formatting requirements for public filers, confidential filers, and certain other employees. *See 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307(d) and 2638.308(e).*

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8.4 The agency's program for annual ethics training complies with the tracking requirements for public filers, confidential filers, and certain other employees. *See 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307(f) and 2638.308(g).*

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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).*

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	DATA ANALYSIS	Training Format	
		Live	Interactive
	Percentage of public filers who completed annual ethics training before the end of the calendar year. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(a).</i>		
8.6	• Executive Schedule Level I and Level II. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(e)(1).</i>	N/A	N/A
8.7	• Other PAS and Equivalent. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(e)(2).</i>	100%	
8.8	• SES and Equivalent. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(e)(3).</i>	N/A	N/A
	Percentage of confidential filers and certain other employees who completed annual ethics training before the end of the calendar year. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(d).</i>		
8.9	• Employees required to file an annual confidential financial disclosure report. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(1).</i>	N/A	N/A
8.10	• Employees appointed by the President. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(2).</i>	N/A	N/A
8.11	• Employees of the Executive Office of the President. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(2).</i>	N/A	N/A
8.12	• Contracting officers described in 41 U.S.C. § 2101. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(3).</i>	N/A	N/A
8.13	• Other employees designated by the head of the agency. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(4).</i>	N/A	N/A
	COMMENTS		
	(8.1-8.13) SCRC's Federal Co-chair/DAEO was the only employee required to receive annual ethics training during the period covered by the inspection. Similar to the initial ethics training program, SCRC did not have training materials established for annual ethics training. OGE assisted SCRC in developing the training and the DAEO agreed to annually review and revise the training material. The DAEO also confirmed reviewing the current year's annual training material. This satisfies SCRC's annual ethics training requirement for its covered employees.		

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 5 C.F.R. § 2638.104(c)(4).</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	COMMENTS			
	(9.1) SCRC did not provide any ethics advice and counseling during the period covered by the inspection.			

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. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(b).</i>			N/A		
10.3	Percentage of sampled reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt but not later than the SGE’s first meeting. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).</i>			NA		
10.4	Percentage of sampled reports certified within 60 days of receipt. <i>See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).</i>			N/A		
Ethics Training						
	COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS			Yes	No	N/A

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	Required ethics training must be provided to each SGE. <i>See</i> 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).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	DATA ANALYSIS	%		
10.7	Percentage of SGEs who received initial ethics training. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304.	N/A		
10.8	Percentage of SGEs who received initial ethics training timely. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(b)(2).	N/A		
10.9	Percentage of SGEs who received annual ethics training. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(d)(2).	N/A		
	COMMENTS			
	(10.1 – 10.9) SCRC does not employ any SGEs.			

ISSUES IDENTIFIED AND RESOLVED DURING THE INSPECTION

Element	ISSUE
	<p><u>ISSUE:</u> SCRC did not have written procedures established for the financial disclosure program, for issuing notices to prospective employees and new supervisors and initial ethics training at the start of OGE's inspection.</p> <p><u>AGENCY RESPONSE:</u> SCRC, with OGE assistance, developed written procedures for these programs that meet the appropriate statutory and regulatory requirements. The document is housed on the shared server for the agency.</p>
	<p><u>ISSUE:</u> SCRC did not have in place materials for initial and annual ethics training at the start of OGE's inspection.</p> <p><u>AGENCY RESPONSE:</u> SCRC, with OGE assistance, developed training materials for initial and annual ethics training during the course of OGE's inspection that meet the applicable OGE requirements.</p>