Agency: International Boundary and Water Commission Report No.: 25-53I Date: April 28, 2025



Period Covered by Review: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024

1.0	AGENCY DATA	
	EMPLOYEES	
.1	Number of full-time agency employees.	291
.2	Number of Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed (PAS) public financial disclosure reports required to be filed.	N/A
.3	Number of non-PAS public financial disclosure reports required to be filed.	2
1.4	Number of confidential financial disclosure reports required to be filed.	123
	ETHICS PROGRAM	
.5	Title of Designated Agency Ethics Official (DAEO).	Chief Legal Counsel
.6	Grade level of DAEO.	15
.7	Title of Alternate DAEO (ADAEO).	Deputy Chief Counsel
.8	Grade level of ADAEO.	14
.9	Title of the primary, day-to-day ethics program administrator.	Chief Legal Counsel
.10	Grade level of the primary, day-to-day ethics program administrator.	15
1.11	Current number of full-time ethics officials.	0
.12	Current number of part-time ethics officials.	3
.13	Number of reporting levels between the DAEO and the agency head.	1
	COMMENTS	
	1.2: IBWC does not have PAS positions.	

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.	\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		
3.5	Public financial disclosure reports are securely maintained. See OGE/GOVT-1.	\boxtimes				

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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).	\boxtimes		
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).	\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).	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).	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. <i>See</i> 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: The written procedures did not sufficiently cover the collection of new entrant reports. Based on OGE's review, IBV procedures to sufficiently cover this requirement. This issue was resolved during OGE's inspection. 3.4: IBWC did not have any filers subject to a late filing fee or waiver during the period covered by the review.	VC revi	sed their	r

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. <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. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2634.905(a).				
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).	\boxtimes			
	DATA ANALYSIS		%		
4.7	Percentage of sampled confidential new entrant reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(b).	71%			

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4.8	Percentage of sampled confidential annual reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(a).	95%			
4.9	Percentage of sampled reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).	91%			
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).	91%			
	COMMENTS				
	4.1, 4.6: The written procedures did not sufficiently cover the collection of annual reports. In addition, the procedures in a that HR notifications to the DAEO must occur within 30 days of new appointments and financial disclosure filer-related OGE's review, IBWC revised their procedures to sufficiently cover the collection of annual reports and to accurately spe notifications are required within 15 days. These issues were resolved during OGE's inspection. 4.7: OGE's review found that four out of fourteen reports were filed late.	the DAEO must occur within 30 days of new appointments and financial disclosure filer-related changes. Based on evised their procedures to sufficiently cover the collection of annual reports and to accurately specify HR and within 15 days. These issues were resolved during OGE's inspection.			

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. 	\boxtimes			
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. 	\boxtimes			
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. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.303.	\boxtimes			
	COMMENTS				
	5.2, 5.8: OGE found that that the notices did not include the required information that employees will be subject to the Standards of Conduct and criminal conflict of interest statutes. Based on OGE's review, IBWC sufficiently revised both notice templates to include the required information. This issue was resolved during OGE's inspection.				

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. § 2638.30	06.		
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.			

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	Preventing Conflicts of	of Interest			
P	deriod Covered by Review: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 in the Executive E				
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).	\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).	\boxtimes			
	DATA ANALYSIS		%		
7.5	Percentage of new employees who received initial ethics training. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304.		100%		
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).		100%		
	COMMENTS				
	None.				
i					
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. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(e)(2).	\boxtimes			
8.3	The agency's annual ethics training complies with the formatting requirements for public filers, confidential filers, and certain other employees. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307(d) and 2638.308(e).	\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			

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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).	y		\boxtimes
		Traini	ng Forn	nat
	DATA ANALYSIS	Live	Inter	active
	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).	50%	50%)
	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). 	None	88%)
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	
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			
	8.10 – 8.13: IBWC does not have any employees that fall into these four categories.			
				· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

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	BOAF	EDS	
	Confidential Financial Disclosure				
10.1	Number of SGEs serving on Advisory Committees and Boards.		N/A		
	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	

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	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							
	10.1 – 10.9: IBWC does not have SGE positions.							

ISSUES IDENTIFIED AND RESOLVED DURING THE INSPECTION						
Element	ISSUE					
3.1	ISSUE: IBWC's written procedures did not sufficiently cover the collection of public financial disclosure new entrant reports AGENCY RESPONSE: The written procedure has been updated to cover the collection of public financial disclosure new entrant reports. It is now stated in the USIBWC's Policy and Standard Operating Procedure.					
4.1	ISSUE: IBWC's written procedures did not sufficiently cover the collection of confidential financial disclosure annual reports. AGENCY RESPONSE: The written procedure has been updated to sufficiently cover the collection of confidential financial disclosure annual reports. It is now stated in the USIBWC's Policy and Standard Operating Procedure.					
4.6	ISSUE: IBWC's written procedures specified the wrong timeframe for HR to provide notices of employee appointments and financial disclosure filer-related changes to the DAEO. Based on OGE's review, IBWC revised their procedures to sufficiently cover both collection dates and to accurately specify the correct notification timeframe of 15 days to provide notification to the DAEO. AGENCY RESPONSE: The procedure has been corrected and reflects the correct notification timeframe as 15 days; the IBWC's Policy and Standard Operating Procedure has been updated.					
5.2, 5.8	ISSUE: IBWC's notice to prospective employees did not include the required information covering employees will be subject to the Standards of Conduct and criminal conflict of interest statutes. AGENCY RESPONSE: The Human Resources Officer has updated the Tentative Job Offer email and the Firm Job Offer letter, to include the following required information to prospective employees "As an Agency employee you will be required to receive initial ethics training within thirty (30) days of your appointment. USIBWC employees will be subject to the Standards of Conduct and criminal conflict of interest statutes."					

ETHICS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT

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	RECOM	ECOMMENDATIONS						
#	Element	RECOMMENDATION	Compliance Due					
1	4.7	RECOMMENDATION: Ensure that confidential financial disclosure reports are submitted timely. AGENCY RESPONSE: The IBWC will work diligently to ensure that initial notifications of financial disclosure requirement are sent immediately after the prospective employee is given the firm employment offer, but no later than 15 days after the appointment date, that the ethics staff will monitor the submission status of each new filer until the financial disclosure form is submitted. If no response to requests to submit from the filer, the ethics staff will then follow the chain of command to request assistance until the disclosure form is submitted to the designated ethics staff. The ethics staff will offer in-person, telephone, or Teams meetings to assist the filer with any difficulties they are having. This would be in addition to the Ethics SharePoint resources. The ethics staff will upgrade the existing filer index to track any filers who are approaching their disclosure due dates. The approach will be used for annual filers as well to ensure that disclosures are submitted prior to or by February 15 th .						