## ETHICS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT

Agency: Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

Report No.: 25-90I Date: September 19, 2025

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



1.0	AGENCY DATA	
	EMPLOYEES	
1.1	Number of full-time agency employees.	21
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.	6
1.4	Number of confidential financial disclosure reports required to be filed.	128
	ETHICS PROGRAM	
1.5	Title of Designated Agency Ethics Official (DAEO).	General Counsel and Chief Operations Officer
1.6	Grade level of DAEO.	SES
1.7	Title of Alternate DAEO (ADAEO).	Attorney-Advisor
1.8	Grade level of ADAEO.	GS-13
1.9	Title of the primary, day-to-day ethics program administrator.	Attorney-Advisor
1.10	Grade level of the primary, day-to-day ethics program administrator.	GS-13
1.11	Current number of full-time ethics officials.	2
1.12	Current number of part-time ethics officials.	0
1.13	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. § 2638.107(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.			



3.6	Public financial disclosure reports are retained in accordance with the retention requirements. See 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. 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).		100%	
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. See 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).		100%	
3.16	Percentage of sampled PAS annual and termination reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		100%	
3.17	Percentage of sampled PAS annual and termination reports certified within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		100%	
	COMMENTS	•		
	3.4: No filers were required to pay a late fee during the period covered by this review. 3.9, 3.14: There were no Non-PAS new entrant reports required and no PAS annual reports required during the period co 3.9 – 3.17: OGE reviewed OSTP documents from calendar year 2024 during this inspection. OGE assessed financial discomples from calendar year 2025 because of their availability and to consolidate a follow-up review with this current inspection.	closure	report	eview.

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. 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).	$\boxtimes$		
	DATA ANALYSIS		%	



4.7	Percentage of sampled confidential new entrant reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(b).	100%
4.8	Percentage of sampled confidential annual reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(a).	87%
4.9	Percentage of sampled reports reviewed within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).	93%
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).	93%
	COMMENTS	
	4.7-4.10: Similar to the public financial disclosure report samples collected in section 3 above, OGE assessed financial camples from calendar year 2025 because of their availability and for efficiency. See the Issues Resolved section below involving the 2024 reports.	

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	<ul> <li>Notice that the individual will be subject to the Standards of Conduct and the criminal conflict of interest statutes as an employee.</li> </ul>	$\boxtimes$		
5.3	<ul> <li>Contact information for an appropriate agency ethics office or an explanation of how to obtain additional information on applicable ethics requirements.</li> </ul>	$\boxtimes$		
5.4	Where applicable, notice of the time frame for completing initial ethics training.	$\boxtimes$		
5.5	<ul> <li>Where applicable, a statement regarding financial disclosure requirements and an explanation that new entrant reports must be filed within 30 days of appointment.</li> </ul>	$\boxtimes$		
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. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.303.	$\boxtimes$		
	COMMENTS			
	None.			

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.			
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).			

for contacting the agency's ethics officials. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(e)(2).

certain other employees. See 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307(d) and 2638.308(e).

8.3

The agency's annual ethics training complies with the formatting requirements for public filers, confidential filers, and



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			
	6.1 – 6.6: OGE found that OSTP issues a combined notice to all new hires, which includes all required information for b employees and new supervisors. OSTP did not have any new supervisors in 2024, but since this required information is it consolidated review that covers all staff in 2024 – the requirements for 6.1 – 6.4 were examined. 6.6: OSTP explained that written procedures did not receive an annual review in 2024, because the agency did not hire at Based on OGE's review, OSTP revised procedures covering the issuance of notices to new supervisors and prospective of in the requirement that they both receive an annual review as required by 5 C.F.R. § 2638.306(d). This issue is resolved.	included iny new employe	d as part	t of a sors.
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. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(e)(1).			
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		%	<u> </u>
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.			
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. 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 or			



8.4	The agency's program for annual ethics training complies with the tracking requirements for public filers, confidentifilers, and certain other employees. <i>See</i> 5 C.F.R. §§ 2638.307(f) and 2638.308(g).	al	$\boxtimes$		
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).	ī			$\boxtimes$
	DATA ANALYSIS		Traini	ng Forn	nat
	DATA ANALYSIS	ľ	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).	No	ne	1009	<b>%</b>
8.7	Other PAS and Equivalent. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(e)(2).	N/A	1	N/A	
8.8	• SES and Equivalent. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.308(e)(3).	No	ne	1009	<b>%</b>
	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	<ul> <li>Employees required to file an annual confidential financial disclosure report. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(1).</li> </ul>	No	ne	1009	<b>%</b>
8.10	• Employees appointed by the President. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(2).	N/A	1	N/A	
8.11	• Employees of the Executive Office of the President. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(2).	N/A	<b>\</b>	N/A	
8.12	• Contracting officers described in 41 U.S.C. § 2101. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(3).	N/A	<b>\</b>	N/A	
8.13	• Other employees designated by the head of the agency. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(a)(4).	N/A	1	N/A	
	COMMENTS				
	8.2: OGE's review found that OSTP did not sufficiently provide the Standards of Conduct as part of the annual trainic course of OGE's review, OSTP updated annual ethics training procedures by including the practice of sending out a Conduct in an email reminder by the end of August of each year and by providing a copy with the annual email notification training course launch. OGE found this new and permanent practice sufficiently resolved this recurring issue.  8.5, 8.7: OSTP does not have any PAS officials with pay set at these levels.  8.6: OSTP did not provide live annual training in 2024 as required for PAS officials at the Executive Schedule Level 8.10 – 8.13: OSTP does not have any employees in these positions that are required to receive annual ethics training.	copy	of the	Standar	ds of

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. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.104(c)(4).	$\boxtimes$		
	COMMENTS			
	None			



	Confidential Financial Disclosure			
10.1	Number of SGEs		17	
	DATA ANALYSIS		%	
10.2	Percentage of sampled confidential new entrant reports filed timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.903(b).		82%	
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).		82%	
10.4	Percentage of sampled reports certified within 60 days of receipt. See 5 C.F.R. § 2634.605(a).		82%	
	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).			
	DATA ANALYSIS		%	
10.7	Percentage of SGEs who received initial ethics training. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304.		50%	
10.8	Percentage of SGEs who received initial ethics training timely. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(b)(2).		50%	
10.9	Percentage of SGEs who received annual ethics training. See 5 C.F.R. § 2638.307(d)(2).		100%	
	COMMENTS			
	10.7 – 10.8: In OGE's 2022 Inspection of OSTP's ethics program, a recommendation was issued for a low percentage of completions at 57% (4 out of 7) for 2021. During OGE's follow-up review in 2024, OSTP made measurable progress tow issue by increasing their completion percentage to 73% (11 out of 15) for 2022 and 2023. In OGE's 2025 inspection, it (4 out of 8) SGEs received IET in 2024 and 50% (4 out of 8) received this training timely.	vards re	esolving	this

ISSUES IDENTIFIED AND RESOLVED DURING THE INSPECTION					
Element	ISSUE				
4.7, 4.8	ISSUE: OGE initially examined samples of 2024 confidential financial disclosure reports and found that 32% (8 out of 25) of new entrant reports and 33% (9 out of 27) of annual reports were filed late. Of these late reports, three new entrant reports and three annual reports were not collected for periods ranging from nine months to thirteen months. Further, it was later identified that two of these new entrant filers had a conflict of interest with their duties at OSTP that should have been addressed. These issues require a recommendation. Because all 2025 reports became available during OGE's review, OGE examined all 2025 reports (consolidation of follow-up review) and found that 100% (15 out of 15) of new entrant reports and 87% (13 out of 15) of annual reports were filed timely. These totals are listed above in 4.7 and 4.8. The 2025 reports did not reveal any issues with report collection that spanned an unreasonable length of time nor any instances of unaddressed conflicts of interest. As a result, this recommendation is closed.				

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	AGENCY RESPONSE:
6.6	ISSUE: Based on OGE's review, OSTP revised SOPs covering the issuance of notices to new supervisors and prospective employees by adding in the requirement that they both receive an annual review as required by 5 C.F.R. § 2638.306(d)  AGENCY RESPONSE:
8.2	ISSUE: Based on OGE's review, OSTP updated annual ethics training procedures to include the Standards of Conduct with the annual email notice for the training's launch.  AGENCY RESPONSE:

	RECOMMENDATIONS				
#	Element	RECOMMENDATION	Compliance Due		
1	8.6	RECOMMENDATION: Ensure that live annual ethics training is provided to all PAS officials at the Executive Schedule Level I or II.  AGENCY RESPONSE:			
2	10.7, 10.8	RECOMMENDATION: Ensure that SGEs receive ethics training as required.  AGENCY RESPONSE:			

GENERAL AGENCY COMMENTS