

ETHICS PROGRAM REVIEW FOLLOW-UP REPORT

Agency: National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Follow-up to OGE Report Number: 21-50I and 23-10IF

Report No.: 23-42IF

Date: August 15, 2023

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

As a result of its inspection of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) ethics program, the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) issued six recommendations in its September 2021 inspection report. OGE conducted a follow-up review in May 2022 but was only able to close three of the six recommendations at that time. OGE conducted a second follow-up review in June 2023 to assess whether NASA had taken sufficient action to close the remaining three recommendations. The results of our second follow-up review are summarized below.

	Recommendation	Agency Action and OGE Finding	Status
4	Develop a system to ensure that new employees who received initial ethics training do so within three months of appointment as required by 5 C.F.R. § 2638.304(b).	<p>According to the ADAEO, NASA's Office of General Counsel (OGC) re-verified by communicating with each NASA center that procedures ensuring that new NASA employees receive initial ethics training within three months of their appointment are in place.</p> <p>NASA is currently working with the NASA Office of the Inspector General (OIG) to ensure new NASA OIG employees are also covered by these procedures. OGE will keep this recommendation open pending additional follow-up.</p>	Open
5	Establish safeguards to ensure that all financial disclosure reports filed by NASA SGEs are reviewed and certified prior to the filer's first advisory committee meeting each year.	<p>According to the ADAEO, NASA's OGC has communicated to all NASA advisory committee executive secretaries the measures needed to ensure advisory committee Special Government Employee (SGE) financial disclosure reports are reviewed and certified before the filer's first advisory committee meeting each year.</p> <p>NASA OGC also plans to convene a meeting with all NASA advisory committee executive secretaries to address these safeguards and technical matters to enhance timely financial disclosure filing and review. OGE will keep this recommendation open pending additional follow-up.</p>	Open

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6	Ensure that all SGE Board members indicate their reporting status on the first page of the confidential report as “New Entrant” in accordance with 5 CFR § 2634.903(b).	<p>According to the ADAEO, the NASA Shared Services Center has agreed to program a new “New Entrant – Existing Member” form status responsive to OGE’s recommendation into NASA’s Ethics Program Tracking System (EPTS). Programming development is expected to begin in June 2023.</p> <p>OGE will keep this recommendation open pending additional follow-up.</p>	Open
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Based on the results of OGE’s follow-up review, recommendations 4, 5, and 6 will remain open pending additional follow-up. OGE will conduct an additional follow-up review again this year to assess whether the remaining three open recommendations can be closed.