



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A14040016

Page 1 of 1

We assessed an allegation of improper actions by NSF Program Officers.¹ It was asserted that assignment of reviewers to a proposal was a violation of the conflict of interest rules in handling proposals. We consulted the OGC guidance, a document dated December 2003, which specifies what it means to “handle” a proposal. The guidance states that a program officer handles a proposal when the officer recommends a decision on it, makes or approves such a decision, or otherwise substantially influences the decision. The assignment of reviewers to a proposal is not listed, and is therefore not a conflict of interest.

We assessed allegations that a funding decision was improperly made, that there was a hiring decision made without following proper procedure, and that there was an abuse of authority by an NSF program officer. We found no support to characterize any of the alleged actions as a violation of a specific rule or procedure that justified further investigation.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

¹ [REDACTED]