



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A14060026

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We investigated an allegation against a former NSF program officer¹ for improperly accessing a proposal² submitted by a PI³ who identified the program officer as a collaborator. The program officer was granted visitor access to NSF's eJacket proposal system to complete actions in his portfolio⁴ in the months after his official departure from NSF. The logs showed that he accessed the proposal in question multiple times over a few days around the time NSF released the reviews to the PI. The program officer had not been assigned to the proposal, which belonged to a division in a directorate other than his own.⁵ There was sufficient evidence to conclude that the program officer knew that he should not access proposals or other databases outside his authorization. We reported our investigation to NSF and recommended appropriate action.

NSF concluded that the program officer did not participate in the funding decision thus there was no appearance of a conflict of interests under a covered relationship. However, NSF concluded that his accessing the proposal was improper, noting that curiosity or interest is not a reason to know the contents of the proposal. NSF has barred the former program officer from serving as a panelist or *ad hoc* reviewer for one year.

This case is *closed*.

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