

### *Paperwork Reduction Act*

The Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35) does not apply because this rulemaking does not contain information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget.

### *Congressional Review Act*

The Office of Government Ethics has determined that this amendatory rulemaking is a nonmajor rule under the Congressional Review Act (5 U.S.C. chapter 8) and will submit a report thereon to the U.S. Senate, House of Representatives and General Accounting Office in accordance with that law at the same time this rulemaking document is sent to the Office of the Federal Register for publication in the **Federal Register**.

### **List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 2600**

Conflict of interests, Government employees, Organization and functions (Government agencies).

Approved: July 1, 2003.

**Amy L. Comstock,**

*Director, Office of Government Ethics.*

■ Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the preamble, the Office of Government Ethics is revising 5 CFR part 2600 to read as follows:

## **PART 2600—ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS**

Sec.

2600.101 Mission and history.

2600.102 Contact information.

2600.103 Office of Government Ethics organization and functions.

**Authority:** 5 U.S.C. App. (Ethics in Government Act of 1978); E.O. 12674, 54 FR 15159, 3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 215, as modified by E.O. 12731, 55 FR 42547, 3 CFR, 1990 Comp., p. 306.

### **§ 2600.101 Mission and history.**

(a) The Office of Government Ethics (OGE) was established by the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, Public Law 95–521, 92 Stat. 1824 (1978). OGE exercises leadership in the executive branch of the Federal Government to prevent conflicts of interest on the part of executive branch employees and resolve those conflicts of interest that do occur. In partnership with executive branch departments and agencies, OGE fosters high ethical standards for executive branch employees which, in turn, strengthens the public's confidence that the Government's business is conducted with impartiality and integrity.

(b) Originally an entity within the Office of Personnel Management, OGE

became a separate executive branch agency on October 1, 1989, pursuant to section 3 of the Office of Government Ethics Reauthorization Act of 1988, Public Law 100–598, 102 Stat. 3031 (1988). OGE is the supervising ethics office for all executive branch officers and employees pursuant to the Ethics Reform Act of 1989, Public Law 101–194, 103 Stat. 1716 (1989), as amended by Public Law 101–280, 104 Stat. 149 (1990). Additionally, OGE has various responsibilities under Executive Order 12674 of April 12, 1989, “Principles of Ethical Conduct for Government Officers and Employees” (3 CFR, 1989 Comp., pp. 215–218), as modified by Executive Order 12731 of October 17, 1990 (3 CFR, 1990 Comp., pp. 306–311).

### **§ 2600.102 Contact information.**

(a) *Address.* The Office of Government Ethics is located at 1201 New York Avenue, NW., Suite 500, Washington, DC 20005–3917. OGE does not have any regional offices.

(b) *Web site.* Information about OGE and its role in the executive branch ethics program as well as copies of publications that have been developed for training, educational and reference purposes are available electronically on OGE's Internet Web site (<http://www.usoge.gov>). The Web site has copies of various Executive orders, statutes, and regulations that together form the basis for the executive branch ethics program. The site also contains ethics advisory opinions and letters published by OGE, as well as other information pertinent to the Office.

(c) *Telephone numbers.* OGE's main telephone number is 202–482–9300. Persons who are deaf or speech impaired may contact OGE at the following TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf and Speech Impaired) number: 202–482–9293. The main OGE FAX number is 202–482–9237.

### **§ 2600.103 Office of Government Ethics organization and functions.**

(a) The Office of Government Ethics is divided into the following offices:

- (1) The Office of the Director;
- (2) The Office of General Counsel and Legal Policy;
- (3) The Office of Government Relations and Special Projects;
- (4) The Office of Agency Programs; and
- (5) The Office of Administration and Information Management.

(b) *Office of the Director.* The Director of the Office of Government Ethics is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The Director advises the White House and executive

branch Presidential appointees on Government ethics matters; maintains a liaison and provides guidance on ethics to executive branch departments and agencies; and oversees and coordinates all OGE rules, regulations, formal advisory opinions and major policy decisions. The Director also serves as a member of the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency; the Executive Council on Integrity and Efficiency; the Integrity Committee; and on such other boards, councils, and committees as may be required by statute, Executive order or regulation. The Director represents the agency in various public outreach initiatives.

(c) *Office of General Counsel and Legal Policy.* (1) The Office of General Counsel and Legal Policy develops regulations and legislative proposals pertaining to conflict of interest statutes and standards of ethical conduct applicable to executive branch officers and employees, and executive branch public and confidential financial disclosure requirements. In addition, this Office provides advice and counseling to agency ethics officials through formal and informal advisory opinions, policy memoranda, and consultations. This Office also manages OGE's review and certification of financial disclosure reports filed by persons nominated by the President for positions requiring Senate confirmation; oversees the creation and operation of qualified and blind trusts and the issuance of certificates of divestiture; and responds to press inquiries.

(2) The General Counsel is the principal deputy of the Director of OGE.

(d) *Office of Government Relations and Special Projects.* The Office of Government Relations and Special Projects provides liaison to the Office of Management and Budget and to the Congress regarding legislative matters, coordinates OGE's support of U.S. Government efforts concerning international anticorruption and ethics initiatives, and is responsible for certain OGE special projects.

(e) *Office of Agency Programs.* (1) The Office of Agency Programs provides services to, and monitors, Federal executive branch agency ethics programs through three divisions: the Education Division, the Program Services Division, and the Program Review Division.

(i) The Education Division develops ethics-related, instructor-led and Web-based training programs for executive agency ethics officials. The division also develops training for ethics officials to deliver to their employees. The division conducts annual surveys to determine the training needs of ethics officials and