



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: A09090075

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We received an allegation that a reviewer¹ of an NSF proposal² violated the confidentiality of NSF's review process, and used insider information from the review process to professionally profit. Specifically, the reviewer allegedly used knowledge from the review of a (declined) proposal to dissuade a private donor from supporting that proposed project and instead to support the reviewer's project.³

After a review of the relevant evidence, we concluded the reviewer disclosed he had reviewed the proposal, but not any details of the proposal or review process. Thus, the reviewer's successful competition for the donor's funding did not rely on the reviewer's use of any confidential information.

We sent the reviewer a letter admonishing him for the disclosure and reminding him of the importance of maintaining the confidentiality of NSF's review process. This case is closed with no further action taken.

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