



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-18-0064-O

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We investigated an allegation by a university faculty member that the university closed his laboratories and denied him adequate office space in reprisal for reporting regulatory and legal violations related to a renovation project funded by NSF through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). We investigated the matter in accordance with ARRA's whistleblower protection provisions. Our investigation confirmed the faculty member made protected disclosures concerning the NSF-funded renovation project and that subsequently the university closed his laboratories and assigned him replacement office space that was smaller than typical for a faculty member of his stature. However, our investigation found no evidence that those at the university responsible for the closure of the laboratories knew of the faculty member's disclosures, which occurred over two and a half years before the decision to close the laboratories. The university also provided evidence of health and safety violations that led to the laboratories being closed. After our investigation we submitted a report of our findings to NSF management, the university, and the faculty member. NSF reviewed the report and concluded that the university did not subject the faculty member to a prohibited reprisal.

This case is *closed* with no further action taken.