

2 March 2001

TO: The File

FROM: [REDACTED] Investigative Scientist

SUBJECT: Case Closeout, I-00080012

1. This case was opened on 30 March 1999 as a misconduct in science case and closed on 18 August 2000 and subsequently opened as an investigation. On 30 March 1999, an NSF program director, [REDACTED] brought a copy of an unsigned letter sent to a CEO of a small business. The letter contained information about the possible inappropriate use of previously submitted NSF proposals by an unidentified company. The unidentified company allegedly purchased proposals from NSF reviewers and used these purchased proposals to develop its own proposals to submit to NSF and other agencies. Subsequently, we received several similar unsigned letters sent to other small businesses alleging the same inappropriate use of other scientists' proposals.
2. As a result of our review, we found only one NSF award to a small business that contained some materials that were essentially identical to materials contained in an earlier declined NSF proposal submitted by another small business. We found no evidence of criminal activity related to the information we gathered. To pursue this, we would need to gather more information with the assistance of added law enforcement, such as surveillance, search warrants, etc. Given what we know, there is no definitive subject, either individual or company to reasonably pursue.
3. This investigation is closed.