



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I13080051

Page 1 of 1

This case was opened from two nearly identical allegations from two complainants.¹ The complainants are former NSF employees who alleged that their supervisor² and the Office Head³ engaged in discriminatory hiring practices, ineffective management techniques, creation of a hostile work environment, wasteful spending, and use of a fraudulent title during their time at NSF. In addition, one of the complainants⁴ claimed that he was marginalized and ultimately terminated after his probationary period as a form of retaliation for having disclosed quality control issues to NSF's Acting Director.

The retaliation claim was also made to the Office of Special Counsel (OSC), which determined that the complainant's termination was not a violation of the Whistleblower Protection Act, 5 U.S.C. § 2302(b)(8) because the disclosures did not rise to the level of "gross mismanagement," a "gross waste of funds," or an "abuse of authority," and therefore did not meet the definition of a "protected disclosure."

It is our determination that the allegations in the two complaints are management issues that do not fall within our investigative jurisdiction. The allegations have been referred to the Director's Office for review and action as it deems appropriate.

This case is closed with no further action taken.

