

## Closeout for M99040028

An informant<sup>1</sup> (the informant) alleged a possible connection between NSF funding and the sexual harassment of a post-doctoral scientist (the scientist)<sup>2</sup> by an unidentified departmental official (the departmental official) at a university.<sup>3</sup> The scientist was funded as a post-doctoral associate on an NSF grant.<sup>4</sup> According to the informant, after terminating a relationship with the departmental official, the scientist allegedly suffered from sexual harassment by the departmental official for approximately two years.

According to this allegation, the departmental official placed multiple harassing telephone calls to the scientist which were charged to the departmental official's NSF grant. In addition, the informant alleges that after learning of the alleged sexual harassment, a former NSF program officer<sup>5</sup> sent a letter to the university inquiring about its failure to provide a proper working environment. The informant believes the former NSF program officer sent a copy of this letter to NSF.

The informant never provided any documentary evidence of the harassing telephone calls, and after a thorough search of the NSF award jacket, OIG could not find a copy of any letter sent by the former NSF program officer to the university concerning the alleged sexual harassment or its failure to provide a proper working environment.

This sexual harassment allegation was nearly ten years old before the informant contacted our office and was not supported by any documentary evidence. Even if the informant provided sufficient proof of the alleged sexual harassment, there is little causal connection between the alleged sexual harassment and the proper administration of NSF funding. Accordingly, this case is closed.

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<sup>1</sup> [footnote redacted]

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