

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Memorandum of Interview

OIG Case No: 07-63

On February 21, 2008, (b)(7)c [redacted] formerly with the Office of Commissioner MERRIFIELD (OCM), U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), was interviewed by Special Agent (SA) (b)(7)c [redacted] and (b)(7)c [redacted] regarding MERRIFIELD's completion of a Public Financial Disclosure Report (b)(7)c [redacted] provided essentially the following information:

(b)(7)c [redacted] indicated that her involvement with the filing of Public Financial Disclosure Reports (SF 278) was very limited during her tenure in the Office of Commissioner MERRIFIELD. She noted that she was only in MERRIFIELD's office for a short period, essentially the final year of his term.

(b)(7)c [redacted] recalled that in the spring of 2007, she was contacted by John SZABO, Senior Attorney, Office of General Counsel, NRC. SZABO indicated that because the submission date for the SF 278s was close to the date when MERRIFIELD's term would end. Therefore, if the individuals in the office requested, they could be granted an extension and as a result have to file only one form which would serve as both that year's submission and a termination submission. (b)(7)c [redacted] then went to each individual and informed them of this. She spoke with MERRIFIELD, and he indicated he would prefer to have the extension which she relayed back to SZABO.

(b)(7)c [redacted] indicated that other than preparing her own SF-278, she had no other involvement with office members in the completion of their forms. She did recall that (b)(7)c [redacted] OCM, had expressed she did not want to have to type MERRIFIELD's form quickly at the last moment as she indicated that it was a difficult or time consuming form to type. (b)(7)c [redacted] believes (b)(7)c [redacted] told her this when (b)(7)c [redacted] was informing her about the extensions, but was not certain (b)(7)c [redacted] was also not certain if (b)(7)c [redacted] was recalling the correct form during their discussions or if (b)(7)c [redacted] was ever asked to type MERRIFIELD's SF-278 in 2007. (b)(7)c [redacted] related that the form was available on an NRC computer program which made its completion relatively quick. (b)(7)c [redacted] noted that MERRIFIELD was not in the habit of filling out forms available on the computer by hand and giving them to his administrative assistants to complete. MERRIFIELD would generally complete such forms on the computer by himself. (b)(7)c [redacted] indicated that if (b)(7)c [redacted] had completed the form for MERRIFIELD, it would simply have been typing the handwritten version provided to her. (b)(7)c [redacted] would not have compiled data, provided advice, or otherwise assisted in the completion of the form.

(b)(7)c [redacted] indicated that she had no further interaction with MERRIFIELD regarding this form. MERRIFIELD did not ask her any questions about how to complete the form, nor did she review his submittal. (b)(7)c [redacted] stated that she did not possess an expertise in ethics regulations, and that she would have consulted with SZABO had any questions been posed to her. She believed that MERRIFIELD would have likely contacted SZABO directly with any questions he might have had regarding the form. No other members of MERRIFIELD's staff asked her any questions about the form, nor did she believe that any other staff members would have given advice regarding this form to MERRIFIELD.

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was not certain when or if MERRIFIELD filed his SF-278. She assumed it was completed because SZABO did not subsequently contact her about any office member's submissions. (b)(7)c did not collect the forms from the staff and indicated that she believed each staff member provided them directly to SZABO.

(b)(7)c

Interviewed by Special Agent

Prepared on February 22, 200

Reviewed by/on:

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