U.S. Office of Personnel Management Offices of CFC Operations and the Inspector General

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COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN AUDIT GUIDE (\$150,000 to \$999,999)

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CHAPTER I

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS AND OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

PURPOSE OF THE GUIDE

Objectives

Overall objectives of the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in implementing these financial audit and agreed-upon procedure (AUP) attestation requirements are to gain the following assurances:

- A. Principal Combined Fund Organizations' (PCFO) fiscal year financial statements are fairly stated in all material respects in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and OPM's prescribed accounting practices.
- B. PCFO's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) operations are conducted in accordance with the CFC regulations and OPM guidance and that controls over compliance with CFC regulations and OPM guidance are effective.

USE OF THIS GUIDE

This CFC Audit Guide (Guide) must be used by Local Federal Coordinating Committees (LFCC) and PCFOs participating in local CFCs. In addition, the Guide must be used by an independent public accountant (IPA) hired by the LFCC and PCFO.

This Guide is divided into three sections.

Chapter I provides general information about Guide requirements and addresses the purpose of the Guide, the scope of required engagements, management and IPA responsibilities, reporting, effective dates, examination periods and due dates.

Chapter II provides specific procedures for the LFCC to perform to determine the PCFO's compliance with 5 CFR Part 950 and OPM guidance, and evaluate the PCFO's internal controls over compliance.

Chapter III provides compliance-related agreed-upon procedures, related reporting requirements and other matters for IPAs to perform.

AUTHORIZATION

OPM promulgated 5 CFR Part 950 pursuant to Executive Orders 12353 and 12404 and Public Law 100-202 to provide a system for administering the annual charitable solicitation drive among federal civilian and military employees. These regulations set forth ground rules under which charitable organizations receive federal employee donations.

CFC regulation 5 CFR § 950.105(d)(9) requires the PCFO to submit to the LFCC an audit for each campaign. The audit must be performed by an IPA in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards (GAAS) and OPM guidance.

In addition, CFC Memorandum 2003-05, in transmitting this Guide, makes clear that certain agreed-upon procedures be performed by an IPA regarding PCFO's compliance with CFC regulations. The Guide also mandates procedures regarding the effectiveness of internal controls concerning PCFO program compliance.

CFC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Guide requires the following documents from campaigns with receipts between \$150,000 and \$999,999:

	Due annually each August 1 to LFCC and September 15 to OPM
IPA audited organization-wide financial statements (fiscal year)	Х
LFCC Compliance Assessment (Most recent on-going campaign)	Х
3. Agreed-upon procedures (AUP) – (Most recently completed campaign)	X
4. AUP Corrective Action Plan	X

PCFO, LFCC AND IPA REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES

Campaigns with Receipts between \$150,000 and \$999,999

This Guide requires the PCFO to provide three items to the LFCC and OPM annually each **August 1 and September 15**, respectively. In addition, the LFCC is required to provide one item to OPM annually no later than **September 15**. The Guide requires:

- A. The PCFO prepares, as of and for the fiscal year ended, organizational-wide financial statements that are in accordance with GAAP and audited by an IPA in accordance with GAAS. If the PCFO does not include CFC activity in their organization-wide financial statements, but prepares a separate CFC-only audited financial statements, then provide both sets of audited financial statements. The PCFO must provide the financial statements and all related audit reports to the LFCC no later than **August 1** and to OPM no later than **September 15**.
- A. The LFCC, with assistance from the PCFO, conducts a compliance assessment by performing certain procedures over the PCFO's compliance with CFC regulations and OPM guidance, and the effectiveness of the PCFO's internal controls over its compliance for the most recent ongoing campaign. The LFCC will provide a certification that all procedures were performed as described in Chapter II below and a report on any instances of non-compliance. See Appendix A for pro forma reports. The LFCC must provide the certification and report to OPM no later than **September 15**.

- B. The IPA performs specified agreed-upon procedures (AUP) over the PCFO's compliance with CFC regulations and OPM guidance, and the effectiveness of the PCFO's internal controls over its compliance as of the end of the most recently completed campaign period¹ and prepares an AUP report on the results in accordance with Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements (SSAE) Number 10 codified in the AICPA's Professional Standards Attestation Standards (AT) Sections 101, 201 and 601. See Appendix A for pro forma reports. The PCFO must submit the IPA's report to the LFCC by **August 1** and to OPM by **September 15**.
- C. If the AUP report identified areas of non-compliance or control weaknesses, then the PCFO must submit to OPM, with a copy to the LFCC, a corrective action plan for addressing the issues no later than **September 15**.

Where applicable, we encourage the performance of any of the work described in the requirements above to be performed throughout the year or at interim periods.

CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Corrective Action Plan. To assist OPM and the LFCC to resolve deficiencies in financial statements, internal controls and regulation and guidance compliance, a PCFO must develop and submit a corrective action plan, reviewed and approved by the LFCC, directly to OPM within 45 days of report issuance. The corrective action plan, an essential part of the report requirement for OPM, is prepared by PCFO management, and is presented on the entity's letterhead and includes the name, title, and telephone number of the responsible PCFO official. In the plan, management:

- A. Describes the corrective action taken or planned in response to findings identified in the IPA's report.
- B. Comments on the status of corrective action taken on any unresolved findings included in prior IPA reports.

See Appendix A, Example 4, for a suggested corrective action plan format.

The requirements of this Guide should serve as the basis for establishing certain performance measures, which will be used to evaluate future PCFO compliance by campaign activity.

LFCC RESPONSIBILITIES

The LFCC is responsible for providing oversight of the campaign's operations and its staff. This includes verification of the existence of accounting procedures sufficient to safeguard the

¹ Campaign period is defined as generally a 24 month period beginning with the selection of the PCFO and ending with final disbursements to organizations. For example, the 2001 campaign began in March 2001 with the selection of the PCFO and continues until approximately February/March 2003, when the last disbursement of funds is made.

finances of the CFC as defined in 5 CFR Part 950; monitoring of campaign overall performance as required by the CFC rules; review of evidence of disbursement controls through LFCC approval and monitoring of the budget; review of the fundraising practices; and, periodic review of financial reports.

The LFCC is also responsible for close review of the audit report. Therefore, IPAs should present findings directly to the Chair of the LFCC, as well as the PCFO.

The LFCC is responsible for ensuring that the expenses charged against CFC funds are valid and appropriate expenditures and that any discrepancies identified during the audit processes are rectified.

PCFO RESPONSIBILITIES AND ASSERTIONS

Among other PCFO responsibilities discussed in this Guide, the PCFO is responsible for:

- A. Preparing financial statements as of and for their fiscal period ending [5 CFR § 950.105(d)(9)].
- B. Complying with 5 CFR Part 950 and OPM guidance.
- C. Establishing and maintaining effective internal controls.
- D. Evaluating and monitoring the effectiveness of internal controls.
- E. Providing the audit IPA with written representations, in a separate report, about all matters in paragraph 68 of SSAE Number 10, AT Section 601.
- F. Maintaining accounting records for 3 years after the end of the campaign period. The end of a campaign period is determined by when the PCFO makes final disbursements to charitable organizations and when the PCFO finalizes (closes) its accounting records.

The PCFO must comply with the above requirements. Failure to comply with this Guide may result in the organization being barred from serving as the PCFO for one year in accordance with 5 CFR § 950.105(e) or subject to other sanctions cited in 5 CFR § 950.603.

IPA QUALIFICATIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

This Guide requires a combination of an annual financial audit, review, or compilation and reports on AUPs to be conducted by a licensed IPA in accordance with GAAS. Therefore the requirements must be performed by a licensed IPA who meets the general standards of qualification, independence, due professional care and quality control. The IPA must follow the standards and requirements contained in GAAS, SAS Number 1, SAS Number 41, SAS Number 54, SAS Number 78, SAS Number 99, and SSAE Number 10 as they pertain to the following:

• Qualifications and General Standards;

- *Field work and Reporting Standards;*
- Engagement Scope;
- Engagement Letter. The letter must include, at a minimum, the following:
 - 1. A statement that the engagement is to be performed in accordance with GAAS and AICPA Attestation Standards as applicable.
 - 2. A statement that both parties understand that the OPM intends to use the IPA's report to help carry out its responsibilities for oversight of the CFC.
 - 3. A statement that the IPA is required to provide OPM's Director and Office of the Inspector General (OIG), as well as the U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO), or their representatives, access to working papers or related documents to review the engagement.
- Obtaining PCFO Representations;
- Fraud and/or Illegal Acts;
- Due Care and Professional Skepticism;
- Obtaining an Understanding of Internal Control Structure;
- Obtaining Sufficient Evidence; and
- Working Papers.

Engagement Quality. OPM and the OIG have implemented procedures for evaluating work performed by IPAs. As part of this evaluation, the IPA shall make working papers available upon request to OPM, the OIG or other representatives of OPM. To facilitate these requests, management's reporting package should include an information sheet identifying the name, address, and telephone number of the partner on the engagement. Working paper reviews normally will take place at the PCFO's office.

Whenever an OPM evaluation of a report or working papers discloses inadequacies by the IPA, the IPA may be asked to take corrective action. If OPM determines the report and working papers are substandard or contain inadequacies, referral to the AICPA and the cognizant State Board of Accountancy will be considered. When circumstances warrant, OPM will consider further action including notification to appropriate officials with authority to consider debarment from federal programs.

FUTURE REVISIONS

It is the IPA's responsibility to ensure he/she is using the most current version of this Guide. OPM periodically revises CFC regulations and guidance and plans to issue revisions to this Guide to reflect these changes. Until the Guide is revised, inconsistencies may exist between the Guide and CFC regulations and OPM guidance. IPAs should follow the CFC regulations in effect for the period being examined and modify their procedures to test the CFC compliance requirements accordingly.

The IPA is also responsible for monitoring relevant changes in GAAS, including AICPA SASs and SSAEs, and for considering the implications of changes on the engagement.

Technical questions about applying the Guide and suggestions for improving future Guides should be sent to:

U.S. Office of Personnel Management Director Office of CFC Operations 1900 E Street NW, Room 5450 Washington, D.C. 20415-0001

Fax: (202) 606-5056 Email: <u>cfc@opm.gov</u> U.S. Office of Personnel Management Assistant IG for Audits Office of the Inspector General 1900 E Street NW, Room 6400 Washington, D.C. 20415-1100

Fax: (202) 606-4823 Email: mresser@opm.gov

CHAPTER II

LFCC PROCEDURES FOR MONITORING PCFO COMPLIANCE

PROCEDURES

Chapter II contains specific procedures for three requisite elements to be followed by the LFCC. The primary objective of these procedures is to determine PCFO compliance with 5 CFR Part 950 and OPM guidance. In addition, the LFCC will evaluate the effectiveness of PCFO controls over compliance with 5 CFR Part 950 and OPM guidance. If the PCFO's system of accounts and records make the use of these specific procedures inappropriate, the LFCC may request OPM to consider alternative procedures designed to produce similar results. These procedures should be performed on the most recent ongoing CFC. In the first year of this Guide, the most recent ongoing campaign is the 2002 Campaign. The 2002 Campaign is defined as the Campaign that was solicited in the Fall 2002. The LFCC must provide a certification that all procedures were performed as described below and a report on any instances of non-compliance. The three requisite elements include the following:

- PCFO General Compliance
- Campaign Brochure
- Pledge Card Processing Controls

PCFO General Compliance

Timeliness of PCFO Activity. The campaign cycle relies on a timeline determined by CFC regulation. Adherence to the timeline and compliance with critical activities such as selection of the PCFO, reporting of campaign results and timely disbursements of contributions and acknowledgement of donors is essential. Perform the following procedures:

- 1. Determine if the PCFO filed a timely application with the LFCC [5 CFR § 950.105(c)].
 - a. Obtain the public notice (usually a legal notice in the newspaper) that contains the due date for PCFO applications from the PCFO or LFCC.
 - b. Obtain a copy of the PCFO application that includes the submission date from the PCFO or LFCC.
 - c. Compare the submission date on the PCFO application with the due date on the public notice.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO's application was submitted after the LFCC's due date.

- 2. Determine if the PCFO provided adequate opportunities for federations and organizations to offer suggestions relating to the operation of the campaign, campaign materials, and training [5 CFR § 950.105(b)].
 - a. Obtain evidence from the PCFO that it provided federations and organizations with opportunities to offer suggestions. Evidence can be letters to federations and organizations, minutes from meetings where federations and organizations were present, or some other form.

b. If the PCFO cannot provide physical evidence that federations and organizations were provided the opportunity to provide suggestions, then select a representative sample of 3 local federations and organizations. Contact the federations and organizations to determine if they were afforded the opportunity to offer suggestions. Whenever possible, the federations or organizations selected by the LFCC should not be affiliated or related to the PCFO. For example, if the PCFO is a United Way, then the representative sample should not include (if possible) other local United Ways participating as federations or United Way affiliated member organizations.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO did not afford local federations and organizations the opportunity to offer suggestions relating to the operation of the campaign, campaign materials, and training.

- 3. Determine if the PCFO filed OPM Form 1417, Campaign Results Code Sheet, by March 3rd with OPM [CFC Memorandum 2003-2].
 - a. Obtain a printed OPM Form 1417 with a submission date from the PCFO.
 - b. Compare the submission date on the OPM Form 1417 with the March 3 due date.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO did not file the OPM Form 1417 with OPM by March 3rd.

- 4. Determine if the PCFO notified federations and organizations of the amount designated, if any, and of the amount allocated from undesignated contributions by March 15 [5 CFR § 950.901(i)(1) and CFC Memorandum 1998-2].
 - Obtain from the PCFO copies of notification letters with dates sent to federations and organizations that informed them of designated and undesignated amounts received from donors.
 - b. Compare the date of the notification letters to the March 15 due date.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO did not notify federations and organizations of the amount designated, if any, and of the amount allocated from undesignated contributions by March 15.

- 5. Determine if the PCFO forwarded a list of donors that requested their name and address to be released to recipient organizations by March 15 [5 CFR § 950.601(c) and CFC Memorandum 1998-2].
 - a. Obtain a copy of the letters with dates sent to organizations that contained the list of donors who requested their name and address be released.
 - Review the list of contributors to determine that it omitted the amount designated and social security numbers.
 - c. Review the list to determine that it clearly identified the federation member organization (not just the federation) to receive the donor's name and address.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO did not forward a list of donors that requested their name and address be released to recipient organizations by

- March 15. Report all instances where the list did not omit the amounts designated and donor social security numbers. Report all instances where the list did not clearly identify the organization to receive the donor's name and address.
- 6. If the PCFO received pledges totaling \$500,000 or more, determine if the PCFO made initial disbursements to federations and organizations by April 1 and monthly thereafter. If the PCFO received pledges totaling less than \$500,000, skip to step 7 [5 CFR § 950.901(i)(2)].
 - a. Select 3 representative federations and 3 representative unaffiliated organizations from the local campaign.
 - b. Obtain canceled checks made payable to each of the selected organizations for each disbursement during the campaign period from the PCFO.
 - c. Compare the date of the first check to the April 1 due date.
 - d. Compare the dates of the remaining checks to ensure that there is one check for each subsequent month after April.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO did not make the initial disbursement by April 1 and monthly thereafter.

- 7. If the PCFO received pledges totaling less than \$500,000, determine if the PCFO made initial disbursements to federations and organizations by June 1 and quarterly thereafter [5 CFR § 950.901(i)(2)].
 - a. Select 3 representative federations and 3 representative unaffiliated organizations from the local campaign.
 - b. Obtain canceled checks made payable to each of the selected organizations for each disbursement during the campaign period from the PCFO.
 - c. Compare the date of the first check to the June 1 due date.
 - d. Compare the dates of the remaining checks to ensure that there is one check for each subsequent quarter after June.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO did not make the initial disbursement by June 1 and quarterly thereafter.

Campaign Brochure

- 1. Obtain the campaign brochure from the most recent ongoing campaign from the PCFO. Review the campaign brochure and determine if the campaign brochure contained:
 - a. Required OPM information (OPM National List with instructions) [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(1) and CFC Memorandum 2002-8].
 - A list of eligible voluntary organizations (divided into national, international and local sections) and in the order prescribed by CFC Memorandum 2002-8 [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(2)];
 - c. A statement informing employees of their right to make a choice to contribute or not to contribute [5 CFR § 950.401(e)];
 - d. A statement informing employees of their right to designate or not to designate [5 CFR § 950.401(e)];
 - e. A statement informing employees of their right to give a confidential gift in a sealed envelope [5 CFR § 950.401(e)];

- f. No organization symbols or other distractions were in use that could compete for the donor's attention [5 CFR § 950.401(f)].
- g. A description of the CFC program [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(1)(I)];
- h. An explanation of the payroll deduction privilege [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(1)(i)];
- i. An explanation of the distribution procedures for undesignated funds [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(1) and CFC Memorandum 2002-8];
- j. A clear statement urging federal donors to direct their gifts to specific agencies, groups, or options of their choice by designating in the boxes provided up to five organizations [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(1) and CFC Memorandum 2002-8];
- k. A statement that designations may only be made to listed organizations and that write-in designations are prohibited [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(1)(ii)];
- 1. Instructions on how to obtain information about the programs and finances of the participating organizations [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(1)(iii)]; and
- m. A statement informing employees of their rights to pursue complaints of undue pressure or coercion in federal fund-raising activities [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(1)(iv)].
- 2. Determine whether the agency listing in the brochure included an "Introduction" with the following information:
 - a. A definition of a "Federation" which reads: "A federation is a group of voluntary charitable human health and welfare agencies established for the purpose of providing common fundraising, administrative, and management services to its members. Federations may be national or international agencies, or local, representing local or regional agencies. If you wish to designate all or some portion of your contribution to a federation, record that federation's code number in one of the boxes on your pledge card. Contributions designated to a federation will be shared in accordance with the federation's policy" [CFC Memorandum 2002-8].
 - b. A definition of "Unaffiliated Organizations" which informs the donor how to contribute to an organization not affiliated with a federation [CFC Memorandum 2002-8].
 - c. A definition of "International General Designation Option" which reads: "I request that my gift be shared among all the international organizations listed in the "International Section" of the Agency Listing in the same proportion that they received designations" [CFC Memorandum 2002-8].
 - d. "Undesignated Funds" section which reads: "Even if you choose not to designate to a specific agency or federation, your contribution will still be accepted. Funds contributed to the CFC, but not designated to a specific organization or federation will be distributed to all organizations in the CFC brochure in the same proportion that was contributed in designations." Any organization that does not receive designated contributions will not receive undesignated funds [CFC Memorandum 2002-8].
- 3. Determine whether the agency listing in the brochure included a section titled, "National Organizations" which contained:
 - a. An accurate reproduction of the OPM Director's list (unless there were waivers) [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(2) and CFC Memorandum 2002-8];
 - b. The title "National Unaffiliated Organizations" preceded the listing of unaffiliated agencies [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(2) and CFC Memorandum 2002-8]; and
 - c. A list of National federations with their member organizations and identified them as federations [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(3)].

- 4. Determine whether the agency listing in the brochure included a section titled, "Local Organizations" division and contained:
 - a. A 25-word description, including the Employer Identification Number (EIN), and if applicable, the legal name of the organization; the percentage of their administrative and fundraising expenses for the preceding calendar year and, a telephone number for each organization listed [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(2)];
 - b. A code number for each organization listed [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(3)];
 - c. A title "Local Unaffiliated Organizations" preceding the listing of local unaffiliated agencies [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(2) and (3)]; and
 - d. Local federations listed with their member organizations and identified as federations [5 CFR § 950.401(g)(3)].

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO did not include the required information in the local campaign brochure or included items not allowed by the regulations (item 1.f).

Pledge Card Processing Controls

The PCFO is required to follow certain regulations and OPM guidance in preparing and processing pledge cards and should have effective internal controls in place to ensure compliance. PCFOs are responsible for honoring employee designations [5 CFR § 950.105(d)(1)], handling math errors correctly [5 CFR § 950.402(d)], and honoring employee wishes regarding the release of his/her name and address to organizations [5 CFR § 950.601(a) and (b)].

- 1. Obtain a pledge card used in the most recent ongoing campaign from the PCFO. Compare this pledge card to the model pledge card provided by OPM (CFC Memorandum 2002-5). Determine if the pledge card used in the local campaign was:
 - a. Consistent with these regulations and instructions by the Director [5 CFR § 950.105(d)(5)];
 - b. Reproduced based on the model pledge card provided by the Director each year at the local level [5 CFR § 950.402(a)];
 - c. Not modified from the model pledge card unless approved by the Director in advance, except for incorporating additional giving levels and including their award recognition program [5 CFR § 950.402(b)];
 - d. Produced with the social security number block blacked out on Copy 2 (Central Receipt Point Copy) and Copy 3 (Contributor Copy) [Privacy Act requirement].

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO's prepared local pledge card is not in accordance with 1a-d.

- 2. Obtain from the PCFO a completed "Pledge Card Questionnaire" (See Appendix B, page B-1) and a walkthrough of the process. The walkthrough should include the PCFO physically demonstrating to the LFCC how pledge cards are received, validated, processed, and accurately entered into pledge systems. Determine if controls are in place to ensure:
 - a. Employee designations were honored [5 CFR § 950.105(d)(1)];
 - b. Employees are not questioned in any way as to his or her designation or its amount except by keyworkers, loaned executives, or other non-supervisory Federal Personnel [5 CFR § 950(d)(4)];

- c. Employees do not make designations and contributions to an organization not listed in the brochure or to a campaign covering a geographic location different from the campaign where the employee works. If this occurs, the PCFO should treat the contribution as undesignated funds and distribute accordingly [5 CFR § 950.402(c)];
- d. The total amount pledged is honored and that there are controls in place to treat the excess amount as undesignated funds for any pledge cards that have designations that add up to less than the total amount pledged [5 CFR § 950.402(d)];
- e. Designations are honored by assigning a proportionate share of the total gift to each organization designated for pledge cards that have a total amount pledged less than the sum of individual designations [5 CFR § 950.402(d)].

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO's controls are not effective to ensure that items 2a-e are complied with.

CHAPTER III

IPA AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES (SSAE 10)

PROCEDURES

Chapter III contains specific procedures for four requisite elements to be followed during the examination by the IPA. The primary objective of these procedures is to determine PCFO compliance with 5 CFR Part 950 and OPM guidance. In addition, the IPA will evaluate the effectiveness of PCFO controls over compliance with 5 CFR Part 950 and OPM guidance. Should the PCFO's system of accounts and records make the use of these specific procedures inappropriate, the IPA may request OPM to consider alternative procedures designed to produce similar results. These procedures should be performed on the CFC activity from the most recently completed campaign. In the first year of this Guide, this will be the 2001 Campaign. The 2001 Campaign is defined as the Campaign that was solicited in the Fall 2001 with receipts and distributions through the early months of 2003. The IPA must prepare an AUP report on the results in accordance with SSAE Number 10 and Attestation Standards (AT) Sections 101, 201 and 601. The IPA should attach the "Schedule of Campaign Receipts and Disbursements" and "Distribution Schedule" used below to the AUP report. The four requisite elements include the following:

- Pledge Card Tracking System
- PCFO Budget and Administrative Expenses
- Receipt and Disbursement of Funds
- Status of Prior Year's Findings

Pledge Card Tracking System

In order for the PCFO to properly follow the regulations cited in Chapter II under the "Pledge Card Processing Controls" section, they must enter the information accurately in their pledge card tracking system and have sufficient quality controls to ensure accurate payments to charitable organizations. Test the PCFO's pledge card tracking system by performing the following steps.

- 1. Select a representative sample of 25 pledge cards from the campaign. Pledge cards selected should represent all types of donations, including cash, designated and undesignated funds.
- 2. Trace and determine that the following information from each pledge card agrees to the PCFO's automated system or pledge records:
 - a. Donor Name
 - b. Each Charity Code Number and Amount Donated
 - c. Total Amount Donated
 - d. Name Release Box Checked.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO's pledge tracking system does not agree with the pledge card.

PCFO Budget and Administrative Expenses

During the annual PCFO application process, a federation, charitable organization, or combination of charitable organizations or federations(s) wishing to administer the local CFC, must submit a written campaign plan to the LFCC on or before the deadline set by the LFCC. The plan must be in sufficient detail to allow the LFCC to determine if the applicant could administer an efficient and effective CFC. The plan should also include a CFC budget that details all costs estimated to be required to operate the CFC. The costs in the budget should be based on estimated actual expenses, not on the percentage of the funds raised in the local campaign [5 CFR § 950.105(c)].

The PCFO may recover from the gross receipts of the campaign its actual costs of administering the local campaign. In no event should the amount recovered for expenses exceed by more than 10 percent the estimated budget submitted. The campaign expenses must be shared proportionately by all the recipients according to their percentage share of gross campaign contributions [5 CFR § 950.106].

- 1. Obtain the PCFO's 2001 application from the LFCC or PCFO. Review for a signed statement by an appropriate official of the PCFO that it will:
 - a. Administer the CFC fairly and equitably [5 CFR § 950.105(c)(2)(i)];
 - b. Conduct the applicant's non-CFC operations separately from the campaign operations [5 CFR § 950.105(c)(2)(ii); and
 - c. Be subject to the decisions and supervision of the LFCC [5 CFR § 950.105(c)(2)(iii)] and to the provisions of 5 CFR § 950.403 and 5 CFR § 950.603 [5 CFR § 950.105(c)(3)].

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO did not include the signed statements in #1 above.

2. Obtain a dated copy of the LFCC minutes documenting their selection of the PCFO and their approval of the PCFO's campaign plan and budget. Compare the date of the LFCC minutes to the March 15 deadline set by 5 CFR § 950.801(a)(3).

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the LFCC did not select the PCFO and approve the PCFO's campaign plan and budgeted expenses, on or before March 15.

- 3. Review the PCFO's budgeted expenses from the most recently completed campaign to determine that they are based on actual expenses and not a percentage of funds raised [5 CFR § 950.105(c)(1)].
 - a. Obtain a copy of the PCFO campaign plan from the most recently completed campaign, including budgeted expenses, and a detailed list of the prior year's actual expenses from the PCFO.
 - b. Compare the expense categories and amounts in the most recently completed campaign's budget to the prior year's actual expenses. The categories and amounts should be similar.
 - Review the PCFO budget description in the most recently completed campaign's plan.
 Make sure the description does not state that the budget is based on a percentage of funds raised.

d. Review LFCC minutes for discussions and justification of PCFO budgeted expenses. Make sure the discussion/justifications do not state that the budget is based on a percentage of funds raised.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO's budgeted expenses are not based on estimated actual expenses or where the budgeted expenses are based on a percentage of funds raised.

- 4. Obtain a detailed list of actual expenses incurred by and reimbursed to the PCFO for administering the most recently completed campaign. Trace and determine that actual expenses incurred agree with the PCFO's general ledger.
- 5. Compare the PCFO's actual expenses to their budgeted expenses and determine whether actual expenses exceeded budgeted expenses by more than 10 percent. If the actual expenses exceeded budgeted expenses by more than 10 percent, review accounting records to determine whether the PCFO absorbed (did not reimburse itself) the excess amount over 10 percent. Amounts recovered by the PCFO in excess of the 10 percent should be set out as not charged to the campaign, unless they were approved by OPM's Director [5 CFR § 950.106(a)].

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO's actual expenses do not agree to the general ledger and where actual expenses reimbursed are more than 110 percent of the budgeted expenses and not approved by OPM's Director.

6. Obtain a copy of or document the PCFO's policy for campaign expense reimbursement. Compare the PCFO's policy to 5 CFR § 950.106(b), which states that the PCFO should cover all campaign expenses at the start of the campaign and then recover their costs from the gross receipts of the same campaign. The PCFO may obtain a commercial loan or line of credit. It may not, however, use receipts from a prior campaign to cover current campaign expenses.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO is not properly matching campaign receipts and expenses.

- 7. Either from the detailed list of actual expenses obtained in #4 above or from the PCFO's accounting records (journal or general ledger) that support the list of actual expenses obtained in #4 above, select a representative sample of 10 actual expenses incurred by and reimbursed to the PCFO for the most recently completed campaign. At least 2 of the actual expenses should be allocated expenses. For example, some employees do not work full time on CFC activities and their salaries may be allocated on a time equivalent ratio or rent/utilities may be allocated based on a percentage of square feet occupied by CFC staff [5 CFR § 950.106(a)].
 - a. For the 8 expenses that are not allocated, trace and determine that the expense agrees back to supporting documentation that contains a justification that the expense was CFC related. Supporting documentation should include a canceled check, invoice, billing, receipts, travel reports, or other supporting documentation.

- b. For the 2 allocated expenses, review the allocation methodology to determine that the methodology is reasonable and that the CFC incurs a fair share of the costs. In addition, the allocations must be based on actual amounts that can be traced and agreed to the general ledger. For example, if the PCFO is allocating 10 percent of rent out of a total of \$100,000, then the \$100,000 total rent should be traced to the PCFO's non-CFC general ledger and the 10 percent should be based on the fact that the CFC occupies 10 percent of the square footage in the building.
- c. For all 10 sample expenses, compare the title of the actual expense or its general ledger account to the budget categories from the PCFO's campaign plan. Determine that PCFO is not charging for expenses not listed in the budget.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO's actual expenses were not supported by source documentation, justified as CFC related, allocated in a fair or reasonable method, allocated based on actual expenses, or included as part of the budget in the PCFO's campaign plan.

- 8. From the detailed list of actual expenses obtained in #4 above, determine if the PCFO has charged the campaign for interest expenses.
 - a. If there is interest expenses listed in the actual expenses, then obtain supporting documentation from the PCFO to determine that the PCFO used a commercial loan to pay for campaign expenses. If the PCFO did not obtain a commercial loan but still charged the campaign for interest expense, then report this as a finding. 5 CFR § 950.106(b) only allows for interest expense if the PCFO obtained a commercial loan. The PCFO may not charge interest for using its own funds to pay for campaign expenses.
 - b. If there is no interest expense listed in the actual expenses, then no further work is required.

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO charged the campaign for interest expenses, but did not obtain a commercial loan.

Receipt and Disbursement of Funds

Contributors may choose to direct their gifts to a specific voluntary agency(ies) or federation(s) of his or her choice by designating up to five organizations/options on their pledge cards.

Contributors may also select the international general designation option. If they do not wish to designate their contributions to a specific organization(s), federation(s), or use the international general designation option, contributions are considered undesignated.

The PCFO receives contributions through cash donations or payroll deductions. The PCFO is allowed to reimburse itself for actual campaign expenses approved by the LFCC from the current year's receipts. The PCFO is responsible for the accuracy of disbursements and must disburse receipts, less their expenses, in accordance with contributor designations. If the campaign has contributions in excess of \$500,000, then the PCFO must make its initial disbursement by April 1 and monthly thereafter. For campaigns with contributions \$500,000 or less, the PCFO must make its initial disbursement by June 1 and quarterly thereafter.

- 1. Obtain a completed "Schedule of Campaign Receipts and Disbursements" and "Distribution Schedule" (see Appendix B, pages B-2 and B-3. These Schedules will also be available in MS Excel format on the CFC website at www.opm.gov/cfc) from the PCFO for the most recently completed campaign [5 CFR § 950.105(d)(8)].
- 2. Trace and determine that the total campaign receipts, administrative expenses, and total campaign disbursements from the "Schedule of Campaign Receipts and Disbursements" agree with the PCFO's general ledger and the administrative expenses and total campaign disbursements to the totals on the "Distribution Schedule." If differences are noted between these totals on the schedules and the general ledger, request the PCFO to provide corrected schedules [5 CFR § 950.105(d)(8)].

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO's cannot produce schedules that agree with its general ledgers.

- 3. Review the "Schedule of Campaign Receipts and Disbursements" for the following:
 - a. PCFO began the collection of cash receipts during the period September December, depending on the start of their solicitation period [5 CFR § 950.102(a)].
 - b. Disbursements began in either April (campaigns with contributions greater than \$500,000) and continued monthly thereafter or in June (\$500,000 or less) and continued quarterly thereafter [5 CFR § 950.901(i)(2)].
 - c. Total campaign receipts (cash/checks, payroll deductions, and interest), less service charges and administrative expenses, were distributed by the PCFO. The ending balance should equal \$0 [5 CFR § 950.901(i)(2)].

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO did not begin collecting receipts between September and December based on their solicitation period, make initial disbursements by April 1 or June 1 (as applicable), and/or did not disburse all receipts, less administrative expenses by the end of the campaign.

- 4. From the "Schedule of Campaign Receipts and Disbursements", select 6 representative months of campaign receipts.
 - a. Trace amounts back to deposits and interest on bank statements for the selected months and determine that the amounts agree with the bank statements [5 CFR § 950.105(d)(8)];
 - b. Determine that all deposits on the bank statements are included on the "Schedule of Campaign Receipts and Disbursements" [5 CFR § 950.105(d)(8)].
 - c. Select 6 representative deposits from the bank statements. Request from the PCFO the statements provided by payroll offices for each deposit. Each payroll office is supposed to provide an accompanying statement with the payment check. The statement should identify the agency, the dates of the pay period, and total number of employee deductions [5 CFR § 950.901(f)(1)].

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO's campaign receipts are not supported by deposits listed on the bank statements and where the bank statements include deposits not listed on the "Schedule of Campaign Receipts and Disbursements." Also, report when a PCFO does not maintain or has not received statements from payroll offices and if possible, identify which payroll offices did not submit statements. OPM will use this information to contact payroll offices which do not provide statements as required by the regulations.

5. From the "Distribution Schedule", determine that organizations were distributed undesignated pledges and expenses in proportion to the funds designated to them by comparing the Undesignated % and Expense % to the Designated % on the schedule [5 CFR § 950.106(c) and 950.501(a)].

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO's Undesignated % or Expense % does not agree with the Designation % on the "Distribution Schedule."

6. From the "Distribution Schedule", select 3 representative federations (one national, one international and one local) and 3 representative unaffiliated (one national, one international and one local) organizations. Test the accuracy of disbursements by tracing the canceled checks to the "Distribution Schedule" and determining that the amounts on the canceled checks agree with the amounts on the "Distribution Schedule." [5 CFR § 950.901(i)(2)].

Evaluation: Report as a finding all instances where the PCFO's "Distribution Schedule" is not supported by canceled checks.

STATUS OF PRIOR YEAR FINDINGS

Update the status of prior year findings. Obtain the PCFO's corrective action plan from the prior year. Obtain an update on the status of each finding from the prior year. Verify that the actions indicated were completed by the PCFO by viewing evidence from the PCFO. See Appendix A, numbers 3 and 4, for an illustration of comments on resolution of prior year's examination findings and illustrative corrective action plan.

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS GUIDE

OPM wishes to express our appreciation for the contributions of time, effort and expertise so generously given by the members of the following government and private entities.

OPM Office of CFC Operations OPM Office of the Inspector General OPM Office of the General Counsel United Way of America's Financial Issues Committee

OPM and the Office of the Inspector General also gratefully acknowledge the assistance provided by all local campaigns and their IPAs.

APPENDIX A

SAMPLE REPORTS

1. ILLUSTRATIVE REPORT ON AGREED-UPON PROCEDURES (Attestation Standards Section 601.25 through 601.29)

Independent Accountants' Report

We have performed the procedures included in the Combined Federal Campaign Audit Guide [or enumerated below], which were agreed to by the Office of Personnel Management, Local Federal Coordinating Committee, and [PCFO name], solely to assist the specified parties in evaluating the [PCFO name]'s compliance with 5 CFR Part 950 and OPM guidance during the 2001 Combined Federal Campaign ended March 31, 2003 [or applicable date] and the effectiveness of the [PCFO name]'s internal control over compliance with the aforementioned compliance requirements as of [date]. Management is responsible for the [PCFO name]'s compliance with those regulations and guidance. This agreed-upon procedure engagement was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The sufficiency of these procedures is solely the responsibility of those parties specified in this report. Consequently, we make no representation regarding the sufficiency of the procedures described below either for the purpose for which this report has been requested or for any other purpose.

The procedures we performed are included in the Combined Federal Campaign Audit Guide [or enumerated in the listing of engagement procedures accompanying this report]. Findings obtained from performing these procedures are presented in the accompanying schedule of findings and questioned amounts.

We were not engaged to and did not conduct an examination, the objective of which would be the expression of an opinion on compliance and on the effectiveness of internal control over compliance. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion. Had we performed additional procedures, other matters might have come to our attention that would have been reported to you.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of the Office of Personnel Management, Local Federal Coordination Committee and [PCFO name] and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

[Signature]	7
[Date]	

2. ILLUSTRATIVE SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED AMOUNTS

Schedule of Findings for Agreed-Upon Procedures									
Area	Description of Findings	\$ Questioned	Status of Finding						
Pledge Card Tracking System	The PCFO entered 1 pledge card out of our sample of 25 incorrectly into its tracking system. Specifically, the PCFO did not indicate that the donor wanted to release his name to charities.	Procedural	PCFO will inform quality reviewers to make sure all information en- tered into the pledge card track- ing system is accurate.						
2. Receipt and Disbursement of Funds	The PCFO did not distribute interest earned on its CFC bank account to participating organizations.	\$10,000	The PCFO distributed the \$10,000 in interest earned on May 15, 2003 (or has agreed to distribute the \$10,000 or disagrees with the finding and is seeking resolution from the LFCC and OPM).						

3. ILLUSTRATIVE COMMENTS ON RESOLUTION OF PRIOR YEAR'S EXAMINATION FINDINGS

Finding No 1: In an examination performed by the [name of audit entity] dated [mm/dd/yy] and titled [name of report], in tests of the PCFO General Compliance, the PCFO did not have controls in place to ensure that it filed OPM Form 1417 by the required due date. This was a procedural finding.

Status: As of [mm/dd/yy] the PCFO developed and implemented a schedule of key due dates. As a result, the PCFO indicated that it met all key due dates for the 2002 campaign.

4. ILLUSTRATIVE CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN FOR FINDINGS

Corrective Action Plan (Prepared by PCFO or service organization)

Name of PCFO or service organization and plan code:
Official responsible for plan:
Phone number:
Audit Period:
IPA/Audit firm:
A. Comments on findings and recommendations
The PCFO should provide a statement of concurrence or nonconcurrence with each finding and recommendation. For instances of nonconcurrence, the PCFO should provide documentation to support their position.
B. Actions taken or planned
The PCFO should develop a detail action plan to correct or resolve all IPA findings. The

C. Status of corrective actions for prior year findings

tive actions.

The PCFO, should document status of all prior year findings and the related corrective actions including changes in corrective action, and expected dates of completion.

plan should include expected correction date(s) and name of official responsible for correc-

5. ILLUSTRATIVE LFCC REPORT ON FINDINGS

Office of Personnel Management Director of CFC Operations Office of CFC Operations 1900 E Street, NW., Room 5450 Washington, DC 20415-1000

The LFCC certifies that it has developed an understanding of the campaign regulations, is carrying out its responsibilities under the campaign regulations and has a current active membership, including a LFCC Chairperson. The LFCC has conducted a compliance assessment by performing the procedures included in Chapter II of the Combined Federal Campaign Audit Guide. The objective of these procedures was to assess the [PCFO name]'s compliance with CFC regulations and OPM guidance and the effectiveness of the PCFO's internal controls over its compliance for the 2002 campaign.

Based on our compliance assessment, we found the *[PCFO name]* was in compliance for each of the procedures we performed with 5 CFR Part 950 and OPM guidance.

or

Based on our compliance assessment, we found the [PCFO name] was in compliance for each of the procedures we performed with 5 CFR Part 950 and OPM guidance, except for the following:

- 1. The PCFO did not have controls in place to ensure that it filed OPM Form 1417 by March 3, 2003 as required by CFC Memorandum 2003-02.
- 2. The PCFO did not include a statement in the 2002 brochure informing employees of their right to make a choice to contribute or not to contribute as required by 5 CFR § 950.401(e).

We have discussed these issues with the PCFO. The PCFO agrees with all the issues above and is working to correct them.

or

We have discussed these issues with the PCFO. The PCFO agrees with all the issues above except for number 1. The PCFO believes the date was extended to March 15, 2003. We would appreciate your input on the correct date for submitting OPM Form 1417.

[Signature]
[Date]

APPENDIX B

PLEDGE CARD QUESTIONNAIRE

(A narrative description of this process may be substituted. Please address each of these questions.)

•	·
1.	How are pledge cards collected, organized, and processed [5 CFR § 950.105(d)(1)]?
	a. What procedures are in place to ensure that pledge cards are processed properly (e.g., not misplaced or lost, etc.)?
	b. What procedures are in place to ensure that designated and undesignated contributions are recorded properly?
	c. What procedures are in place to verify the totals?
2.	What procedures are used when an employee makes a designation to an agency not listed in the brochure [5 CFR § 950.402(c)]?
3.	What procedures are used when a pledge card has mathematical errors or is illegible [5 CFR § 950(d)(4) and 5 CFR § 950.402(d)]?

SCHEDULE OF CAMPAIGN RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Page 1

					,				Page 1
Month		Campaign	Receipts						
	Cash & Checks	Payroll	Interest	Total	Service charges	Administrative Expenses	Disbursements to agencies	Total	Ending Balance
Sep-01				0				0	0
Oct-01				0				0	0
Nov-01				0				0	0
Dec-01				0				0	0
Jan-02				0				0	0
Feb-02				0				0	0
Mar-02				0				0	0
Apr-02				0				0	0
May-02				0				0	0
Jun-02				0				0	0
Jul-02				0				0	0
Aug-02				0				0	0
Sep-02				0				0	0
Oct-02				0				0	0
Nov-02				0				0	0
Dec-02				0				0	0
Jan-03				0				0	0
Feb-03				0				0	0
Mar-03				0				0	0
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

If there was activity after March Year 03, please add a row and include that information.

Name Of CFC Audit Distribution Schedule

		Desi nate	_	Unde nate	_	Gross	Expense	s	Total									Total	Shrink	kage
Agency #	Agency Name	Des ig- nat ed	%	Un- desi gna ted	%	Desig- nation	Charged	%	Desig- nation	Mar -00	Apr- 00	May -00	Continue with each month	Dec -00	Jan -01	Feb- 01	Mar -01	Paid	\$	%
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	TOTAL	0.00		0.00	! ! ! !	0.00	0.00		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	

APPENDIX C DEFINITIONS AND ACRONYMS

"Agency" or "Voluntary Agency" - a private, non-profit, philanthropic, human health and welfare organization.

"Agreed-Upon Procedures (AUP)" - An agreed-upon procedures engagement is one in which a independent public accountant (IPA) is engaged to issue a report of findings based on specific procedures performed on a subject matter. OPM and the IPA agree upon the procedures to be performed as outlined in this Guide. The IPA may request alternative procedures be performed to achieve the desired result if the current procedures do not match the operating environment.

"Business Days" - calendar days exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and Federal holidays.

"Campaign Cycle" - a two year period which marks the beginning of a campaign and the end of a campaign. March 15 marks the beginning of the first year of the campaign and March 14 two years later ends the campaign. For example, March 15, 2000 begins the fall 2000 campaign and March 14, 2002 mark the end of the fall 2000 campaign.

"Combined Federal Campaign" or "CFC" - the charitable fund-raising program established under Executive Order Number 10728, as amended by Executive Order Number 10927, 12353, and 12404.

"Director" – The Director of the Office of Personnel Management. Currently, OPM's Director is Kay Coles James.

"Designated Funds" - those contributions which the contributor has designated to a specific voluntary agency (ies), federation(s), or general option(s).

"Employee" - any person employed by the Government of the United States or any branch, unit, or instrumentality thereof, including persons in the civil service, uniformed service, foreign service, and the postal service.

"Federation" or "Federated Group" - a group of voluntary charitable human health and welfare agencies organized for purposes of supplying common fund-raising, administrative, and management services to its constituent members.

"International General Designation Option" – a donor option indicating that the gift be distributed to all of the international agencies listed in the international section of the campaign brochure in the same proportion as all of the international agencies received designation in the local CFC. This option will have the code "IIII."

"Local Federal Coordinating Committee" or "LFCC" - the group of Federal officials designated by the Director to conduct the CFC in a particular community.

"Most recent ongoing campaign" – The campaign solicited this past Fall for which receipts and disbursements continue to occur. In the first year of this Guide, this will be the 2002 Fall campaign (solicited in Fall 2002).

"Most recently completed campaign" – The most recent campaign for which all receipts and disbursements have been completed. In the first year of this Guide, this will be the 2001 Fall campaign (solicited in Fall 2001).

"Organization-wide Financial Statements" – Financial statements of the PCFO as an organization. These statements may or may not include CFC activity. These are the financial statements that are made available to the public and that should reconcile to the organization's IRS Form 990.

"Principal Combined Fund Organization" or "PCFO" - the federated group or combination of groups, or a voluntary agency selected by the LFCC to administer the local campaign under the direction and control of the LFCC and the Director.

"Undesignated Funds" - those contributions which the contributor has not designated to a specific voluntary agency(s), federation(s), or general option(s).

AICPA	American	Institute o	f Certified	Public Accountants

AIGA Assistant Inspector General for Audits

AR AICPA's Professional Standards - Accounting and Review AT AICPA's Professional Standards - Attestation Standards

AUPAgreed-Upon ProceduresCFCCombined Federal CampaignCFRCode of Federal RegulationsCPACertified Public AccountantFOIAFreedom of Information Act

GAAP Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
GAAS Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

GAO U.S. General Accounting Office

Guide Combined Federal Campaign Audit Guide

IPA Independent Public Accountant

LFCC Local Federal Coordinating Committee

OIG Office of the Inspector General
 OPM Office of Personnel Management
 PCFO Principal Combined Fund Organization
 SAS AICPA's Statement on Auditing Standards

SSAE AICPA's Statements on Standards for Attestation Engagements
SSARS Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services

AUTHORITATIVE REFERENCES

5 CFR Part 950, Solicitation of Federal Civilian and Uniformed Service Personnel for Contributions to Private Voluntary Organizations

Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)

Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS)

SAS Number 1, Codification of Auditing Standards and Procedures

SAS Number 41, Working Papers

Interpretation Number 2 of SAS Number 41, Providing Access to or Photocopies of Working Papers to a Regulator

SAS Number 54, Illegal Acts by Clients

SAS Number 78, Consideration of Internal Control in a Financial Statement Audit: An Amendment to SAS Number 55

SAS Number 99, Consideration of Fraud in a Financial Statement Audit

SSAE Number 10 Attestation Standards: Revision and Recodification

APPENDIX D

LAWS, REGULATIONS AND OPM GUIDANCE TO BE TESTED FOR COMPLIANCE

- 1. 5 CFR Part 950 Solicitation of Federal Civilian and Uniformed Service Personnel for Contributions to Private Voluntary Organizations.
- 2. Applicable CFC Memoranda, which can be found at www.opm.gov/cfc.

APPENDIX E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUESTS

NOTIFICATION TO SUBMITTERS OF CONFIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL INFORMATION

You have been or may be asked to submit to the U.S. Office of Personnel Management and/or its Office of Inspector General information in connection with these procedures, audit, inspection or other inquiry pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, 5 U.S.C. app. 3, sec. 1 et seq. This is to notify you that if you deem any of this information to be "confidential commercial information," you may take steps to so designate that information to protect its confidentiality if at a future point in time a request is made for disclosure of this information under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).

"Confidential commercial information" means records that may contain material exempt from release under Exemption 4 of FOIA (pertaining to trade secrets and commercial or financial information that is privileged or confidential), because disclosure could reasonably be expected to cause substantial competitive harm.

You may use any reasonable method you believe appropriate and which is acceptable to OPM or the OIG to indicate which documents and information you deem to fall into the category of "confidential commercial information." Please be as specific as possible in segregating the information that you consider to be "confidential commercial information" from any other information you are providing to OPM or the OIG. This may be done before such information is provided to OPM or the OIG if feasible, but only if it will not delay or interfere with production of the information or delay or interfere with OPM's or the OIG's investigation, audit, inspection or other inquiry. Otherwise, you may so designate this information within a reasonable period of time after the information is provided to OPM or the OIG.

If a FOIA request is received by OPM or the OIG for information you have designated as "confidential commercial information," OPM or the OIG is nevertheless required by law to make its own independent determination of whether the FOIA requires disclosure of the information or whether it should be withheld pursuant to Exemption (b)(4) or any other exemption of FOIA. If OPM or the OIG determines that it may be required to disclose pursuant to FOIA that information you have designated or other information that OPM or the OIG has reason to believe could be expected to cause substantial competitive harm, to the extent permitted by law, we will make a good faith effort to notify you and provide you with a reasonable opportunity to object to such disclosure and to state all grounds upon which you oppose disclosure. We will give careful consideration to all specified grounds for nondisclosure prior to making our final decision.

If we nonetheless believe that disclosure is required, we will provide you with a statement explaining why your objections were not sustained and specifying a disclosure date. To the extent permitted by law, this statement will be provided to you in a reasonable number of days prior to the specified disclosure date. Furthermore, if disclosure of the designated information is denied pursuant to an exemption under FOIA and an administrative or judicial appeal is taken by the FOIA requester, we will make a good faith effort to notify you promptly.

The procedures outlined in this notice are intended only to improve the internal management of OPM and the OIG and are not intended to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, officers, or any person.