



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS

CLOSEOUT MEMORANDUM

Case Number: I-17-0031-O

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We received an allegation that a reviewer participating remotely on an NSF panel was live-tweeting her observations about the applications, the panel, and the panelists. Even after the Program Director asked her to stop, the panelist continued to tweet, even tweeting a rationalization justifying her tweeting if NSF objected to her actions. After several requests asking the panelist to cease tweeting, to which the panelist was unresponsive, the Program Director had the reviewer removed from the panel.

We concluded the reviewer's actions violated the confidentiality of NSF's review process. Accordingly, we recommended NSF send the reviewer a letter of reprimand notifying her that NSF has made a finding that she violated NSF's rules for panelists. We recommended NSF bar the reviewer from participating as a peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for NSF and take other actions as appropriate to protect the integrity of its review process. NSF barred the reviewer from participating as a peer reviewer, advisor, or consultant for NSF for 3 years.

This case is closed with no further action taken.