



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 20 2017

OFFICE OF WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Recusal Statement

FROM: Dennis Lee Forsgren, Jr.
Deputy Assistant Administrator

TO: Michael H. Shapiro
Acting Assistant Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "D. Lee Forsgren", is written over the printed name of the sender.

I have previously consulted with the Office of General Counsel/Ethics (OGC/Ethics) and been advised about my ethics obligations. This memorandum formally notifies you of my continuing obligation to recuse myself from participating personally and substantially in certain matters in which I have a financial interest, or a personal or business relationship. I also understand that I have obligations pursuant to Executive Order 13770 and the Trump Ethics Pledge that I signed, as well as my own bar obligations.

FINANCIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

As required by 18 U.S.C. § 208(a), I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter in which I know that I have a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, or in which I know that a person whose interests are imputed to me has a financial interest directly and predictably affected by the matter, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for a regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2). I understand that the interests of the following persons are imputed to me: any spouse or minor child of mine; any general partner of a partnership in which I am a limited or general partner; any organization in which I serve as officer, director, trustee, general partner or employee; and any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment. Although OGC/Ethics advises that conflicts are unlikely to arise, I understand that I am recused from participating personally and substantially in any particular matter that affects **Anthem Health** as a specific party because of my current level of financial ownership.

OBLIGATIONS UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER 13770

Pursuant to Section 1, Paragraph 6 of the Executive Order, I understand that I am prohibited from participating in any particular matter involving specific parties in which my

former employer, **HBW Resources**, or any former client to whom I provided legal or lobbying services during the past two years is a party or represents a party. I understand that my recusal lasts until June 18, 2019, which is two years from the date that I joined federal service.

I have been advised by OGC/Ethics that, for the purposes of this pledge obligation, the term “particular matters involving specific parties” is broadened to include any meetings or other communication relating to the performance of my official duties, unless the communication applies to a particular matter of general applicability and participation in the meeting or other event is open to all interested parties. I am further advised that the term “open to all interested parties” means five or more parties.

Pursuant to Section 1, Paragraph 7 of the Executive Order, since I was a registered lobbyist during the past two years, I understand that I am also prohibited from participating in any particular matter on which I lobbied within the previous two years and prohibited from participating in the specific issue area in which that particular matter falls, unless I obtain a waiver pursuant to Section 3 of the Executive Order. I understand that this recusal lasts for two years from the date that I joined federal service.

Within the previous two years, I personally lobbied on behalf of the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida on water issues. In an abundance of caution to ensure that I meet my obligations under the Trump Ethics Pledge, I had decided to recuse myself from all **water quality issues related to South Florida** until June 18, 2019. However, due to the potential threat posed by Hurricane Irma to the Miccosukee Reservation and surrounding areas, on September 9, 2017, the EPA requested a limited waiver of the provisions of Paragraph 7. On October 2, 2017, the Counsel to the President granted this limited waiver which authorized me to participate personally and substantially in matters that arise as part of EPA’s response to Hurricane Irma with respect to the Miccosukee Tribe or the Miccosukee Indian Reservation. But since the Hurricane did not impact the Miccosukee Reservation and surrounding areas, this limited waiver was ultimately not necessary and I understand that I’m still recused from all water quality issues related to South Florida.

RECUSAL LIST In effect until June 18, 2019	
FORMER EMPLOYER:	HBW Resources
FORMER LOBBYING:	Water Quality Issues Related to South Florida, except to the extent authorized under a limited waiver for matters that arise as part of EPA’s response to Hurricane Irma with respect to the Miccosukee Tribe or the Miccosukee Indian Reservation

FORMER CLIENTS:	BWX Technologies, Inc. (BWXT) Plaintiff's Group – Deepwater Horizon spill litigation Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association Transas USA Inc.
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OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE IMPARTIALITY PROVISIONS

I am advised by OGC/Ethics that Executive Order 13770 defines “former employer” to exclude any Native American tribe,¹ and the Office of Government Ethics has determined that the same exclusion applies to the definition of “former client.”² But as an executive branch employee, I understand that I am also subject to the federal impartiality standards and have a one-year cooling off period with any former client that is a Native American tribe. Therefore, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which the Miccosukee Tribe of Indians of Florida is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized by OGC/Ethics to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d). For federal ethics purposes, I understand that my recusal remains in effect for one year from the date that I last provided services to that client, and this federal ethics limitation does not extend to particular matters of general applicability, such as rulemaking.

ATTORNEY BAR OBLIGATIONS

Pursuant to my obligations under my bar rules, I recognize that I am obliged to protect the confidences of my former clients. I also understand that I cannot participate in any matter that is the same as or substantially related to the same specific party matter that I participated in personally and substantially while in private practice, unless my bar provides for and I first obtain informed consent and notify OGC/Ethics.

SCREENING ARRANGEMENT

In order to ensure that I do not participate in matters relating to any of the entities or lobbying issue area listed above, I will instruct Louise Kitamura, OW/OAA Assistant Deputy Ethics Official, to assist in screening EPA matters directed to my attention that involve my former employer or my former clients as a specific party or the particular matter/specific issue area on which I previously lobbied. I will provide a copy of this memorandum to my principal subordinates with a copy to Justina Fugh, Senior Counsel for Ethics. I will also instruct my principal subordinates that all inquiries and comments involving the entities or lobbying issue

¹ See Exec. Order 13,770, Section 2(j), which provides that “‘former employer’ does not include any... Native American tribe.”

² See Office of Government Ethics Legal Advisory 17-02 (February 6, 2017), which states that, “[w]ith respect to Executive Order 13770, ethics officials and employees may continue to rely on OGE’s prior guidance regarding Executive Order 13490 to the extent that such guidance addresses language common to both orders,” and Office of Government Ethics Legal Advisory DO-09-011 (March 26, 2009), which states that “based on discussions with the White House Counsel’s office, OGE has determined that the definition of former client is intended to exclude the same governmental entities as those excluded from the definition of former employer.”

area on my recusal list should be directed to Louise Kitamura without my knowledge or involvement until after my recusal period ends.

If Louis Kitamura determines that a particular matter will directly involve any of the entities listed on my “specific party” recusal list or water quality issues in South Florida that are not already addressed by the limited waiver, then s/he will refer it for action or assignment to another, without my knowledge or involvement. In the event that s/he is unsure whether an issue is a particular matter from which I am recused, then s/he will consult with OGC/Ethics for a determination.

UPDATE AS NECESSARY

In consultation with OGC/Ethics, I will revise and update my recusal statement whenever warranted by changed circumstances, including changes in my financial interests, changes in my personal or business relationships, or any changes to my EPA duties. In the event of any changes to my screening arrangement, I will provide a copy of the revised recusal statement to you, OGC/Ethics, and any principal subordinates.

cc: Justina Fugh, Senior Counsel for Ethics