

Scientific Integrity Policy Status

8/12

The following table summarizes whether each agency’s Scientific Integrity Policy Addresses the following factors:

- Scientific Misconduct –
 - Whistleblowing – Whether the Scientific Integrity Policy includes protection from retaliation for scientists who disclose scientific misconduct.
 - Because it is currently unclear whether disclosures of violations of an agency’s scientific integrity policy would qualify as a protected disclosure under the Whistleblower Protection Act, those agencies who only reference existing law without explicitly providing that retaliation against employees for disclosing scientific misconduct is prohibited are flagged in yellow.
 - Procedure for Complaint/Reporting – Whether the agency has a defined procedure for complaining of or reporting scientific misconduct.
- Public Communications of Science – Whether the Scientific Integrity Policy addresses scientists’ ability to communicate regarding their official work with the general public and publish in external peer-reviewed journals.
- Use of Federal Advisory Committees – Whether the Scientific Integrity Policy addresses the use and composition of Federal Advisory Committees, ad hoc advisory bodies that bring together experts from outside the federal government typically to study and recommend action on a policy question.
- External Peer Review – Whether the Scientific Integrity Policy addresses whether and to what extent agency policy decisions will be based on science subjected to external peer review.

Factor	Scientific Misconduct		Public Communications of Science	Federal Advisory Committees	External Peer Review
	Whistle-blowing Protection	Procedures for Complaint/Reporting			
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Department of	YES	NO ¹	YES	YES	YES

¹ The Department of Agriculture promises to “[e]nsure that mechanisms are in place to resolve disputes that arise from instances in which the scientific process or the integrity of scientific and technological information may be compromised” but identifies no actual procedure in its Scientific Integrity Policy.

Agriculture					
Department of Commerce ²	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Department of Defense	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Department of Education	A DRAFT SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY POLICY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED				
Department of Energy	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Environmental Protection Agency	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Food & Drug Administration	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
Department of Health & Human Services	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES
Department of Homeland Security	NO SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY POLICY OR DRAFT DEVELOPED TO DATE				
Department of the Interior	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO
Department of Justice	A DRAFT SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY POLICY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED				
Department of Labor	A DRAFT SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY POLICY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED				
Office of the Director of National Intelligence	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Office of Management & Budget	NO SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY POLICY OR DRAFT DEVELOPED TO DATE				
Marine Mammal Commission	YES	NO	YES	YES ³	YES
National Aeronautics & Space Administration	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
National Institute of Standards &	A SUMMARY OF POLICES ALREADY IN EFFECT HAS BEEN RELEASED, AND NIST "IS CURRENTLY WORKING TO UPDATE ITS RELEVANT POLICIES"				

² The Department of Commerce explains its incomplete Scientific Integrity Policy by stating that it has "defer[ed] to each bureau [within Commerce] with an interest in science to determine whether it is necessary to develop bureau-specific implementation"

³ The Marine Mammal Commission is a Federal Advisory Committee.

Technology					
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration	YES ⁴	YES	YES	YES	YES
National Science Foundation	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO
Office of Science & Technology Policy	NO SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY POLICY OR DRAFT DEVELOPED TO DATE				
Social Security Administration	NO SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY POLICY OR DRAFT DEVELOPED TO DATE				
Department of State	YES	YES	YES ⁵	YES	YES
Department of Transportation	A DRAFT SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY POLICY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED				
Department of Veterans Affairs	A DRAFT SCIENTIFIC INTEGRITY POLICY HAS BEEN DEVELOPED				

⁴ Prohibitions on retaliation are incorporated into NOAA's Procedural Handbook for NOAA Administrative Order (NAO) 202-735D: Scientific Integrity.

⁵ References 11 FAM 813.2, available at <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/176811.pdf>.