

by first-class mail, by facsimile transmission, by certified mail, or, as described below with respect to documents issued by the Authority, by electronic mail (hereinafter, “email”). Where facsimile equipment is available, rulings on motions; information pertaining to prehearing disclosure, conferences, orders, or hearing dates, and locations; information pertaining to subpoenas; and other similar or time sensitive matters may be served by facsimile transmission. Where a party using the FLRA’s eFiling system has consented to electronic service of documents issued by the Authority in a particular case, the Authority shall serve documents on that party exclusively by email to the email address provided by the party.

* * * * *

■ 40. Amend § 2429.22 by revising paragraph (c) to read as follows:

§ 2429.22 Additional time for filing with the FLRA if you are filing in response to a document that has been served on you by first-class mail or commercial delivery.

* * * * *

(c) *Exception for applications for review filed under 5 CFR 2422.31.* You do not get an additional 5 days to file an application for review of a Regional Director’s Decision and Order under 5 CFR 2422.31, regardless of the method of service of that Decision and Order.

* * * * *

■ 41. Amend § 2429.24 by revising paragraphs (f)(1) and (2) to read as follows:

§ 2429.24 Place and method of filing; acknowledgement.

* * * * *

(f) * * *

(1) Applications for review under 5 CFR 2422.31(a) through (c);

(2) Oppositions to applications for review under 5 CFR 2422.31(d);

* * * * *

By the Authority,
Rebecca J. Osborne,
Deputy Solicitor.

[FR Doc. 2026–21078 Filed 10–14–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 7627–01–P

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

5 CFR Part 2641

RIN 3209–AA72

Post-Employment Conflict of Interest Restrictions; Revision of Departmental Component Designations

AGENCY: Office of Government Ethics.

ACTION: Final rule; technical amendment.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE) is issuing this final rule to update the name of an existing departmental component that was previously designated for purposes of the one-year post-employment conflict of interest restriction for senior employees.

DATES: Effective October 15, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kimberly L. Sikora Panza, Associate Counsel; Telephone: 202–482–9300; Email: usoge@oge.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Substantive Discussion; Revision of Existing Departmental Component

The Director of OGE (Director) is authorized by 18 U.S.C. 207(h) to designate distinct and separate departmental or agency components in the executive branch for purposes of 18 U.S.C. 207(c), the one-year post-employment conflict of interest restriction for senior employees. Under 18 U.S.C. 207(h)(2), component designations do not apply to persons employed at a rate of pay specified in or fixed according to subchapter II of 5 U.S.C. chapter 53 (the Executive Schedule). Component designations are listed in appendix B to 5 CFR part 2641.

The representational bar of 18 U.S.C. 207(c) usually extends to the whole of any department or agency in which a former senior employee served in any capacity during the year prior to termination from a senior employee position. However, 18 U.S.C. 207(h) provides that whenever the Director “determines that an agency or bureau within a department or agency in the executive branch exercises functions which are distinct and separate from the remaining functions of the department or agency and that there exists no potential for use of undue influence or unfair advantage based on past Government service,” the Director shall by rule designate that agency or bureau as a separate component of that department or agency. As a result, a former senior employee who served in a designated component of a parent department or agency is barred from communicating to or making an appearance before any employee of that component, but is not barred as to any employee of the parent, of another designated component, or of any other agency or bureau of the parent that has not been designated. Likewise, a former senior employee who served in a “parent” department or agency is not barred by 18 U.S.C. 207(c) from making

communications to or appearances before any employees of any designated component of that parent, but is barred as to employees of that parent or of other components that have not been separately designated.

The Director regularly reviews the component designations listed in appendix B to part 2641, and in consultation with the department or agency concerned, makes adjustments as are necessary. Pursuant to the procedures prescribed in 5 CFR 2641.302(e), the Department of Transportation has requested that OGE revise the name of one component currently listed in appendix B to part 2641. Specifically, the Department of Transportation requested that OGE revise Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation to read “Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation.” The revision is requested because the Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation was legally renamed the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation as part of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act (Section 512 of Division AA of P.L. 116–260), signed into law on December 27, 2020. The Department of Transportation advised that there have been no substantive changes to this component, and that the component name update is purely a technical change. OGE is therefore amending the Department of Transportation listing in appendix B to reflect the current name of this component.

The designation of Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation in appendix B to part 2641 was effective as of January 1, 1991. *See* 56 FR 3961. The component name change being made in this rule, which does not affect the underlying component designation date, is effective on October 15, 2026, the date this rule is published in the **Federal Register**.

II. Matters of Regulatory Procedure

Administrative Procedure Act

Pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 553, as the Acting Director of the Office of Government Ethics, I find that good cause exists for waiving the general requirements for notice of proposed rulemaking, opportunity for public comment, and a 30-day delayed effective date. As the change effectuated by the final rule is a minor, technical amendment to the current regulation, notice and comment is unnecessary. Furthermore, it is important and in the public interest that the component name change, which reflects the current organization of the concerned

department be published in the **Federal Register** and take effect as promptly as possible.

Regulatory Flexibility Act

As Acting Director of the Office of Government Ethics, I certify under the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. chapter 6) that this rule will not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities because it affects only Federal departments and agencies and current and former Federal employees.

Paperwork Reduction Act

The Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S.C. chapter 35) does not apply to this rule because it does not contain information collection requirements that require the approval of the Office of Management and Budget.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

For purposes of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. chapter 25, subchapter II), this rule will not significantly or uniquely affect small governments and will not result in increased expenditures by State, local, and tribal governments, in the aggregate, or by the private sector, of \$100 million or more (as adjusted for inflation) in any one year.

Congressional Review Act

The rule is not a major rule as defined in 5 U.S.C. chapter 8, Congressional Review of Agency Rulemaking.

Executive Orders 12866 and 13563

In promulgating this rule, the Office of Government Ethics has adhered to the regulatory philosophy and the applicable principles of regulation set forth in Executive Order 12866, Regulatory Planning and Review (58 FR 51735, Oct. 4, 1993) and Executive Order 13563, Improving Regulation and Regulatory Review (76 FR 3821, Jan. 21, 2011). Executive Orders 13563 and 12866 direct agencies to assess all costs and benefits of available regulatory alternatives and, if regulation is necessary, to select the regulatory approaches that maximize net benefits (including economic, environmental, public health and safety effects, distributive impacts, and equity). Executive Order 13563 emphasizes the importance of quantifying both costs and benefits, of reducing costs, of harmonizing rules, and of promoting flexibility.

This rule has not been reviewed by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866 because it is not a “significant” regulatory action for the purposes of that order.

Executive Order 12988

As Acting Director of the Office of Government Ethics, I have reviewed this rule in light of section 3 of Executive Order 12988, Civil Justice Reform, and certify that it meets the applicable standards provided therein.

Executive Order 13175

The Office of Government Ethics has evaluated this rule under the criteria set forth in Executive Order 13175 and determined that tribal consultation is not required as this rule has no substantial direct effect on one or more Indian tribes, on the relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribes, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the Federal Government and Indian tribes.

List of Subjects in 5 CFR Part 2641

Conflict of interests, Government employees.

Approved: October 10, 2026.

Keith Sonderling,

Acting Director, U.S. Office of Government Ethics.

Accordingly, for the reasons set forth in the preamble, the U.S. Office of Government Ethics amends 5 CFR part 2641 as set forth below:

PART 2641—POST-EMPLOYMENT CONFLICT OF INTEREST RESTRICTIONS

- 1. The authority citation for part 2641 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 5 U.S.C. ch. 131; 18 U.S.C. 207; E.O. 12674, 54 FR 15159, 3 CFR, 1989 Comp., p. 215, as modified by E.O. 12731, 55 FR 42547, 3 CFR, 1990 Comp., p. 306.

- 2. Appendix B to part 2641 is amended by revising the listing for the Department of Transportation to read as follows:

Appendix B to Part 2641

Agency Components for Purposes of 18 U.S.C. 207(c)

* * * * *

Parent: Department of Transportation

Components

Federal Aviation Administration.
Federal Highway Administration.
Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (effective January 30, 2003).
Federal Railroad Administration.
Federal Transit Administration.
Maritime Administration.
National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (effective December 29, 2016).

Great Lakes St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation (formerly Saint Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation).

* * * * *

[FR Doc. 2026–21059 Filed 10–14–26; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6345–04–P

FEDERAL LABOR RELATIONS AUTHORITY

5 CFR Chapter XIV

Amendment to Memorandum Describing the Authority and Assigned Responsibilities of the General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority

AGENCY: Federal Labor Relations Authority.

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: The Federal Labor Relations Authority (FLRA) publishes this document to implement the vacatur of Section I.C. of the amendment to Appendix B—titled “Memorandum Describing the Authority and Assigned Responsibilities of the General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority”—published March 24, 2026 (Memo Amendment). The Memo Amendment also changed Section III of Appendix B, but that change was not vacated and is not affected by this final rule. This document reinstates the wording of Section I.C. of Appendix B as it appeared before the Memo Amendment took effect.

DATES: This final rule is effective on October 15, 2026.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Thomas Tso, Solicitor, at solmail@flra.gov or at (771) 444–5778.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

On March 24, 2026, the FLRA published the Memo Amendment. Amendment to Memo. Describing the Authority and Assigned Responsibilities of the General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, 91 FR 13949 (Mar. 24, 2026) (Member Anne Wagner dissenting). The Memo Amendment was effective April 23, 2026. *Id.* at 13949. In a memorandum and order on June 29, 2026, the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts held that the Memo Amendment and its April 23, 2026, effective date were arbitrary and capricious. *See AFGE, AFL–CIO v. FLRA*, 838 F.Supp.3d 90 (D. Mass. June 29, 2026). In a final judgment on July 8, 2026, the District Court vacated the Memo Amendment’s changes to Section I.C., but not changes to Section III, of Appendix B. *See id.*,