

Summary: Investigation Finds No Evidence of Ethical Violations by Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Employees

Report Date: September 27, 2016

Our investigation of allegations against an official at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) did not find any evidence that she used her public office for private gain. Someone purporting to be a senior vice president in the energy industry alleged that the BOEM official had been pressuring energy companies into hiring her husband as a geologist, and also that she and her supervisor created problems for companies who did not offer work to her husband.

We did not uncover any evidence to substantiate that either of the aforementioned employees coerced energy companies into hiring the husband. We contacted the senior vice president named in the complaint, and he told us that he did not submit a complaint and did not know anything about the allegations.

The complaint stated that two BOEM employees knew about the alleged coercion, and that emails supported the allegations. Both of these individuals told us that they learned about the wrongdoings from a former BOEM supervisor, who was no longer an employee of BOEM. Neither of the BOEM employees had any evidence to substantiate the allegations. We made several attempts to interview the former BOEM supervisor, but he was uncooperative. Additionally, we reviewed government email records but did not find any information to corroborate the allegations.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued to BOEM for informational purposes only.

