

June 22, 2021

Susan Beard
Designated Agency Ethics Official
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Ms. Beard:

The purpose of this letter is to describe the steps that I will take to avoid any actual or apparent conflict of interest in the event that I am confirmed for the position of Under Secretary for Science and Energy, Department of Energy. It is my responsibility to understand and comply with commitments outlined in this agreement.

SECTION 1 – GENERAL COMMITMENTS

As required by the criminal conflicts of interest law at 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 particular 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 an officer, director, trustee, general partner, or employee; and
- Any person or organization with which I am negotiating or have an arrangement concerning prospective employment.

In the event that an actual or potential conflict of interest arises during my appointment, I will consult with an agency ethics official and take the measures necessary to resolve the conflict, such as recusal from the particular matter or divestiture of an asset.

If I have a managed account or otherwise use the services of an investment professional during my appointment, I will ensure that the account manager or investment professional obtains my prior approval on a case-by-case basis for the purchase of any assets other than cash, cash equivalents, investment funds that qualify for the regulatory exemption for diversified mutual funds and unit investment trusts at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.201(a), obligations of the United States, or municipal bonds.

I will receive a live ethics briefing from a member of the ethics office after my confirmation but not later than 15 days after my appointment pursuant to the ethics program

regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2638.305. Within 90 days of my confirmation, I will submit my Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance which documents my compliance with this ethics agreement.

I understand that as an appointee I will be required to sign the Ethics Pledge (Exec. Order No. 13989) and that I will be bound by it. Among other obligations, I will be required to recuse from particular matters involving specific parties involving my former employer or former clients for a period of two years after I am appointed, with the exception of federal, state and local government.

I will not modify this ethics agreement without your approval and the approval of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics pursuant to the ethics agreement requirements contained in the financial disclosure regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2634.803(a)(4).

SECTION 2 – LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Upon confirmation, I will take an unpaid leave of absence from my position as tenured Professor at the University of Oregon. I will have the right to continue to participate in my health/dental plan provided that I pay both the employer and employee contributions. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of the University of Oregon, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1), or qualify for either the exemption for employees on leave from institutions of higher learning allowing participation in certain particular matters of general applicability at 5 C.F.R. § 2640.203(b), or another regulatory exemption, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(2).

SECTION 3 – RESIGNATIONS

Upon confirmation, I will resign from my position with Sigma Xi the Scientific Honorary Research Society. I resigned from my position with Brown Science Foundation in January 2021. Pursuant to the impartiality regulation at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502, for a period of one year after my resignation from each of these entities, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter involving specific parties in which I know that entity is a party or represents a party, unless I am first authorized to participate, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d).

SECTION 4 – DIVESTITURES

I will divest my interests in the following entities as soon as practicable but not later than 90 days after my confirmation:

- Nextera Energy
- Portland General Electric
- IBM
- Aliant Energy
- Ameren
- Cisco

- Danaher
- Duke
- Emerson Electric
- Thermo Fisher Scientific
- Verizon
- Fortive

With regard to each of these entities, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of the entity until I have divested it, 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 have verified that I will be able to carry out the divestitures within the timeframe described above.

I understand that I may be eligible to request a Certificate of Divestiture for qualifying assets and that a Certificate of Divestiture is effective only if obtained prior to divestiture. Regardless of whether I receive a Certificate of Divestiture, I will ensure that all divestitures discussed in this agreement occur within the agreed upon timeframes and that all proceeds are invested in non-conflicting assets. I understand that I must timely submit my request for a Certificate of Divestiture to allow for adequate time for OGE to process the Certificate of Divestiture, and in order to divest assets within the agreed upon timeframe.

My spouse and I will not repurchase any asset I was required to divest without my consultation with my agency ethics official and the U.S. Office of Government Ethics.

SECTION 5 – SPOUSE EMPLOYMENT

My spouse is the director of the Advanced Light Source (ALS) at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL) for which he receives a fixed annual salary. I will have a “covered relationship” with the Regents of the University of California (UC Regents) because my spouse is an employee at LBNL, which is managed and operated for the Department by the UC Regents. For as long as my spouse works for the University of California or LBNL, I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on my spouse’s compensation or employment with the University of California or LBNL, unless I first obtain a written waiver, pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 208(b)(1). Pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.502(d), I will seek written authorization to participate personally and substantially in particular matters involving specific parties in which I know the University of California or LBNL is a party or represents a party. However, I understand that any authorization does not allow me to work on matters that uniquely impact ALS, such as evaluation of its performance and non-general budgetary matters that uniquely effect ALS.

SECTION 6 – RETAINED POSITION

I will retain my position as a trustee of the SDK AND GLR Revocable Living Trust. I will not receive any fees for the services that I provide as a trustee during my appointment to the position of Under Secretary. I will not participate personally and substantially in any particular

matter that to my knowledge has a direct and predictable effect on the financial interests of the SDK AND GLR Revocable Living Trust, 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).

SECTION 7 – PUBLIC POSTING

I have been advised that this ethics agreement and the Certification of Ethics Agreement Compliance will be posted publicly, consistent with the public information law at 5 U.S.C. § 552, on the website of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics with ethics agreements of other Presidential nominees who file public financial disclosure reports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Geraldine Richmond". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Geraldine Richmond