



# **Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.**

## **Conflict of Interest Policy for Department of Energy Financial Assistance**

### **1.0 Purpose**

This Conflict of Interest Policy for Federal Financial Assistance (this “Policy”) implements the Department of Energy (“DOE”) Interim Conflict of Interest Policy for Financial Assistance, FAL 2022-02 dated Dec. 20, 2021 (“DOE Interim COI Policy”), establishing standards that provide a reasonable expectation that the design, conduct, and reporting of projects wholly or in part funded under DOE financial assistance awards (e.g., a grant, cooperative agreement, or technology investment agreement) and other Federal financial assistance awards, as applicable, will be free from bias resulting from financial conflicts of interest or organizational conflicts of interest.

### **2.0 Feedback**

Feedback is a critical element of continual improvement. To provide feedback on this Policy, please email Jeffrey King at [jeffrey.king@tristategt.org](mailto:jeffrey.king@tristategt.org).

### **3.0 Applicability**

This Policy is a corporate policy applying to all Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (“Tri-State”) employees regardless of department, job or role when Tri-State is applying for or receives a Federal financial assistance award, as well as to Tri-State’s subrecipients. Employees subject to requirements to disclose significant financial interests are limited to Investigators, as that term is defined in this Policy. This Policy and the DOE Interim COI Policy do not apply to Office of Indian Energy and Phase I Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)/Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) applications and financial assistance awards.

### **4.0 Definitions**

As used in this Policy:

*Award, financial assistance award or Federal award* means the same as the definition provided in 2 CFR 200.1 for Federal award.

*Contracting Activity* means an organizational element that has the authority to award and administer contracting and financial assistance instruments.

*Disclosure of significant financial interests* means an individual’s disclosure of significant financial interests to a non-Federal entity.



*DOE* means the U.S. Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), and any components of the DOE to which the authority involved may be delegated.

*DOE program office* means the organizational unit of DOE, led by an officer of the Department who has been appointed by the President by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, that funds and/or manages the awards subject to this Policy. For purposes of this Policy, the term *DOE program office* includes the organization responsible for executing program management functions; the cognizant contracting activity; and the field elements in safety and health, administrative, management, and technical areas.

*Financial conflict of interest (FCOI)* means a situation in which an Investigator or the Investigator's spouse or dependent children has a significant financial interest or financial relationship that could directly and significantly affect the design, conduct, reporting or funding of a project.

*FCOI report* means a non-Federal entity's report of a financial conflict of interest to the DOE program office.

*Financial interest* means anything of monetary value, whether or not the value is readily ascertainable.

*Institution of Higher Education* means the same as the definition provided at 20 U.S.C. § 1001(a).

*Investigator* means the principal Investigator (PI) and any other person, regardless of title or position, who is responsible for the purpose, design, conduct, or reporting of a project funded by DOE or proposed for funding by DOE. DOE program offices have the discretion to expand the definition to include also any person who *participates* in the purpose, design, conduct, or reporting of a project funded by DOE or proposed for funding by DOE. Such expansion will be specified in the applicable funding opportunity announcement and/or terms and conditions of the financial assistance award. In addition, to the extent this Policy is applied with respect to a financial assistance award other than a DOE financial assistance award, the term *Investigator* shall mean a person required to make significant financial interest and sponsored travel disclosures with respect to such other awards.

*Investigator's non-Federal entity responsibilities* means an Investigator's professional responsibilities on behalf of the non-Federal entity, and as defined by the non-Federal entity in its policy on financial conflicts of interest, which may include: activities such as research, research consultation, teaching, professional practice, institutional committee memberships, and service on panels such as Institutional Review Boards or Data and Safety Monitoring Boards.



*Manage* means taking action to address a financial conflict of interest, which can include mitigating or eliminating the conflict of interest, to ensure, to the extent possible, that the purpose, design, conduct, and reporting of a project will be free from bias.

*Non-Federal entity* means a State, local government, Indian tribe, Institution of Higher Education, nonprofit organization, or for-profit organization that carries out a DOE award, or other Federal financial assistance award, as a recipient or subrecipient.

*Non-Federal entity's designated official* means the individual designated by the non-Federal entity with the authority and responsibility to act on behalf of the non-Federal entity to ensure compliance with the DOE Interim COI Policy or applicable policies pertaining to a financial assistance award other than a DOE award.

*Organizational conflict of interest* means a situation where because of relationships with a parent company, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, the non-Federal entity is unable or appears to be unable to be impartial in conducting a procurement action involving a related organization. 2 CFR 200.318(c)(2).

*Potential conflict of interest* exists when an impartial observer reasonably believes that actual or apparent past, present, or currently planned interests could constitute a conflict of interest with a project funded under a DOE award or other Federal financial assistance award.

*Principal Investigator (PI)* means a principal investigator of a project funded under a DOE financial assistance award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award; PI is included in the definitions of *senior/key personnel* and *Investigator*.

*Project* means the interdependent activities funded wholly or in part under the DOE financial assistance award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award. A project has a defined start and end point with objectives described in an application or in an approved scope that, when attained, signify completion and achievement of a specific goal, and creation of a unique product, service, or result. For awards that include recipient cost share as part of the approved budget, activities funded with that recipient cost share are included.

*Recipient* means an entity, usually but not limited to non-Federal entities, that receives a Federal award directly from a Federal awarding agency. The term recipient does not include subrecipients or individuals that are beneficiaries of the award.

*Senior/key personnel* means the PI; any other person who significantly influences the design, conduct, or reporting of a project funded under a DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award; and any other person identified as senior/key personnel by the non-Federal entity in the application for financial assistance, approved budget, progress report, or any other report submitted to the DOE or other Federal award granting entity by the non-Federal entity under this Policy.



*Significant financial interest* means:

(1) A financial interest consisting of one or more of the following interests of the Investigator (and those of the Investigator's spouse and dependent children) that reasonably appears to be related to the Investigator's non-Federal entity responsibilities:

(i) With regard to any foreign or domestic publicly traded entity, a *significant financial interest* exists if the value of any remuneration received from the entity in the twelve months preceding the disclosure and the value of any equity interest in the entity as of the date of disclosure, when aggregated, exceeds \$5,000. For purposes of this definition, remuneration includes salary and any payment for services not otherwise identified as salary (e.g., consulting fees, honoraria, paid authorship); equity interest includes any stock, stock option, or other ownership interest, as determined through reference to public prices or other reasonable measures of fair market value;

(ii) With regard to any foreign or domestic non-publicly traded entity, a *significant financial interest* exists if the value of any remuneration, not otherwise disclosed as current, pending, or other support, received from the entity in the twelve months preceding the disclosure, when aggregated, exceeds \$5,000, or when the Investigator (or the Investigator's spouse or dependent children) holds any equity interest (e.g., stock, stock option, or other ownership interest);

(iii) Intellectual property rights and interests (e.g., patents, copyrights), upon receipt of income related to such rights and interests.

(2) Investigators also must disclose the occurrence of any reimbursed or sponsored travel (*i.e.*, that which is paid on behalf of the Investigator and not reimbursed to the Investigator so that the exact monetary value may not be readily available) related to their institutional responsibilities that is not otherwise disclosed in current and pending or other support disclosures, provided that this disclosure requirement does not apply to travel that is reimbursed or sponsored by a Federal, state, or local government agency of the United States; a domestic Institution of Higher Education; or a domestic research institute that is affiliated with a domestic Institution of Higher Education. The non-Federal entity's FCOI policy will specify the details of this disclosure, which will include, at a minimum, the purpose of the trip, the identity of the sponsor/organizer, the destination, and the duration. In accordance with the non-Federal entity's FCOI policy, the non-Federal entity official(s) will determine if further information is needed, including a determination or disclosure of monetary value, in order to determine whether the travel constitutes a FCOI with the project funded under the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award.

(3) The term *significant financial interest* does not include the following types of financial interests: salary, royalties, or other remuneration paid by the non-Federal entity to the Investigator if the Investigator is currently employed or otherwise appointed by the non-Federal entity, including intellectual property rights assigned to the non-Federal entity and agreements to



share in royalties related to such rights; any ownership interest in the non-Federal entity held by the Investigator, if the non-Federal entity is a commercial or for-profit organization; income from investment vehicles, such as mutual funds and retirement accounts, as long as the Investigator does not directly control the investment decisions made in these vehicles; income from seminars, lectures, or teaching engagements sponsored by a Federal, state, or local government agency of the United States, a domestic Institution of Higher Education, or a domestic research institute that is affiliated with a domestic Institution of Higher Education; or income from service on advisory committees or review panels for a Federal, state, or local government agency of the United States, a domestic Institution of Higher Education, or a domestic research institute that is affiliated with a domestic Institution of Higher Education.

*Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program and Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) Program* mean the extramural research programs for small businesses that are run by the DOE Office of Science and the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy and certain other Federal agencies under Public Law 97-219, the Small Business Innovation Development Act, as amended, and Public Law 102-564.

*Subrecipient* means an entity, usually but not limited to non-Federal entities, that receives a subaward from a pass-through entity to carry out part of a Federal award, but does not include an individual that is a beneficiary of such award. A subrecipient may also be a recipient of other Federal awards directly from a Federal awarding agency.

## **5.0 Investigator Financial Conflicts of Interest (FCOI)**

### **5.1 Tri-State Policy Requirements Overview**

Tri-State will maintain this Policy on financial conflicts of interest that complies with the DOE Interim COI Policy, and make such policy available via a publicly accessible website.

Each Investigator is informed of Tri-State's Policy, the Investigator's responsibilities regarding disclosure of significant financial interests, and of DOE's Interim COI Policy; and Tri-State requires each Investigator to complete training regarding the same prior to engaging in projects related to any DOE financial assistance award and at least every four years, and immediately when any of the following circumstances apply:

- (1) Tri-State revises this Policy or related procedures in any manner that affects the requirements of Investigators;
- (2) An Investigator is new to Tri-State; or
- (3) Tri-State finds that an Investigator is not in compliance with this Policy or a related management plan.



If Tri-State carries out the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award through or with the assistance of one or more subrecipient, Tri-State must take reasonable steps to ensure that each subrecipient Investigator complies with this Policy by:

(1) Incorporating as part of a written agreement with the subrecipient terms that establish whether the financial conflict of interest policy of Tri-State or that of the subrecipient will apply to the subrecipient's Investigators.

a. For DOE awards, if the subrecipient's Investigators must comply with the subrecipient's financial conflict of interest policy, the subrecipient shall certify as part of the agreement referenced above that its policy complies with this DOE Interim COI Policy and the subrecipient shall make such policy available via a publicly accessible website. If the subrecipient does not have any current presence on a publicly accessible website (and only in those cases), the subrecipient shall make its written policy available to any requestor within five business days of a request. If the subrecipient cannot provide such certification, the agreement shall state that subrecipient Investigators are subject to the financial conflict of interest policy of Tri-State for disclosing financial conflicts of interest;

b. Additionally, if the subrecipient's Investigators must comply with the subrecipient's financial conflict of interest policy, the agreement referenced above shall specify time period(s) for the subrecipient to report all identified financial conflicts of interest to Tri-State. Such time period(s) shall be sufficient to enable Tri-State to provide timely FCOI reports, as necessary, to DOE, as required by this DOE Interim COI Policy;

c. Alternatively, if the subrecipient's Investigators must comply with Tri-State's financial conflict of interest policy, the agreement referenced above shall specify time period(s) for the subrecipient to submit all Investigator disclosures of significant financial interests to Tri-State. Such time period(s) shall be sufficient to enable Tri-State to comply timely with its review, management, and reporting obligations under the DOE Interim COI Policy.

(2) For DOE awards, providing FCOI reports to the DOE Program Office regarding all financial conflict of interest of all subrecipient Investigators consistent with this Policy, *i.e.*, prior to the expenditure of funds and within sixty days of any subsequently identified FCOI.

Tri-State designates Jeffrey King (and in his absence, Patrick Ross) as its "Designated Official" to solicit and review disclosures of significant financial interests from each Investigator who is planning to participate in, or is participating in, the project funded under a DOE award, including disclosures of subrecipient Investigators. Tri-State, through provision of the DOE Interim COI Policy to its Designated Official, provides guidelines for such official to determine whether an Investigator's significant financial interest is related to a project funded under a DOE award and, if so related, whether the significant financial interest is a financial conflict of interest.



## 5.2 Investigator Disclosures

Each Investigator who is planning to participate in the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award must disclose to Tri-State's Designated Official the Investigator's significant financial interests (and those of the Investigator's spouse and dependent children). An SFI & Sponsored Travel Disclosure form, substantially similar to the initial form attached to this Policy, will be provided to all applicable employees qualifying as an Investigator pursuant to the terms of a FOA or award. In the event Tri-State seeks to add an Investigator after the time of application, the Investigator is required make such disclosures prior to participating in a project funded under a DOE award.

Each Investigator who is participating in the DOE award must submit an updated disclosure of significant financial interests at least annually, in accordance with the specific time period prescribed by Tri-State's Designated Official, during the period of the award. Such disclosure shall include any information that was not disclosed initially, or in a subsequent disclosure of significant financial interests (*e.g.*, any financial conflict of interest identified on a DOE award that was transferred from another non-Federal entity), and shall include updated information regarding any previously disclosed significant financial interest (*e.g.*, the updated value of a previously disclosed equity interest).

Each Investigator who is participating in the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award must submit an updated disclosure of significant financial interests within thirty days of discovering or acquiring (*e.g.*, through purchase, marriage, or inheritance) a new significant financial interest.

Each disclosure and updated disclosure must be signed and dated by the Investigator and include a certification statement that reads:

"I understand that this Disclosure is required to obtain funding from the U.S. Government. I, [Full Name and Title], certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information contained in this Disclosure Statement is true, complete, and accurate. I understand that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, misrepresentations, half-truths, or omissions of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims, or otherwise. (18 U.S.C. §§1001 and 287, and 31 U.S.C. §§3729 -3730 and 3801-3812). I further understand and agree that (1) the statements and representations made herein are material to U.S. Government's funding decision, and (2) I have a responsibility to update the disclosures during the period of performance of the award should circumstances change which impact the responses provided above."

Tri-State may involve the Investigator in the Designated Official's determination of whether a significant financial interest is related to the project funded under the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award. Noncompliance with the disclosure requirements,



or willful misrepresentation in such disclosures, may subject an Investigator to disciplinary action up to and including termination of employment. In addition, Investigators shall be aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, on a disclosure, report, or other record required under the DOE Interim COI Policy may be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18, Sections 287 and 1001; and Title 31, 3729-3730 and 3801-3812).

### **5.3 Management and Reporting**

#### Overview

An Investigator's significant financial interest is related to a project funded under a DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award when Tri-State, through its Designated Official, reasonably determines that the significant financial interest could be affected by the project, could affect the project, is in an entity whose financial interest could affect the project, or is in an entity whose financial interest could be affected by the project. Tri-State may involve the Investigator in the Designated Official's determination of whether a significant financial interest is related to the project funded under the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award. A financial conflict of interest exists when Tri-State, through its Designated Official, reasonably determines that the significant financial interest could directly and significantly affect the purpose, design, conduct, or reporting of the project funded under a DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award.

Tri-State will take such actions as necessary to manage financial conflicts of interest, including any financial conflicts of a subrecipient Investigator. Management of an identified financial conflict of interest requires development and implementation of a management plan and, if necessary, a retrospective review and a mitigation report.

Tri-State will maintain records relating to all Investigator disclosures of financial interests and Tri-State's review of and response to such disclosures (whether or not a disclosure resulted in Tri-State's determination of a financial conflict of interest) and all actions under this Policy for the time period specified in 2 CFR §200.334 or, where applicable, from other dates specified in the individual award terms and conditions.

This Policy establishes adequate enforcement mechanisms and provides for employee sanctions or other administrative actions to ensure Investigator compliance as appropriate.

Tri-State will certify, prior to award, that it:

- (1) Has in effect an up-to-date, written, and enforced administrative process to identify and manage conflicts of interest with respect to all projects for which financial assistance funding is sought or received from DOE or other applicable Federal entity;



- (2) Shall promote and enforce Investigator compliance with this Policy's requirements including those pertaining to disclosure of significant financial interests;
- (3) Shall manage financial conflicts of interest and provide initial and ongoing FCOI reports to DOE and other applicable Federal entities consistent with this Policy;
- (4) Agrees to make information available, promptly upon request, to DOE and other applicable Federal entities relating to any Investigator disclosure of financial interests and the non-Federal entity's review of, and response to, such disclosure, whether or not the disclosure resulted in the non-Federal entity's determination of a financial conflict of interest; and
- (5) Shall fully comply with the requirements of this Policy.

#### Procedures

##### (a) Management of financial conflicts of interest.

(1) Prior to Tri-State's expenditure of any funds under a DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award, the Designated Official of Tri-State shall, consistent with Section IV(f): review all Investigator disclosures of significant financial interests; determine whether any of the disclosures relate to the project funded under the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award; determine whether a financial conflict of interest exists; and, if so, develop and implement a management plan that shall specify the actions that have been, and shall be, taken to manage such financial conflict of interest. A nonexclusive list of conditions or restrictions, one or more of which might be imposed to manage a financial conflict of interest, includes:

- (i) Public disclosure of the financial conflict of interest (e.g., when presenting or publishing the project);
- (ii) For projects involving human subjects, disclosure of financial conflicts of interest directly to participants;
- (iii) Appointment of an independent monitor or oversight committee capable of taking measures to protect the purpose, design, conduct, and reporting of the project against bias resulting from the financial conflict of interest;
- (iv) Modification of the project plan;
- (v) Change of personnel or personnel responsibilities, or disqualification of personnel from participation in all or a portion of the project;
- (vi) Reduction or elimination of the financial interest (e.g., sale of an equity interest); or
- (vii) Severance of relationship(s) that create financial conflicts of interest.



(2) Whenever, in the course of an ongoing project funded under a DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award, an Investigator who is new to participating in the project discloses a significant financial interest or an existing Investigator discloses a new significant financial interest to Tri-State, the Designated Official of Tri-State shall, within sixty days: review the disclosure; determine whether it is related to the project funded under the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award; determine whether a financial conflict of interest exists; and, if so, implement, on at least an interim basis, a management plan that shall specify the actions that have been, and will be, taken to manage such financial conflict of interest. Depending on the nature of the significant financial interest, Tri-State may determine that additional interim measures are necessary with regard to the Investigator's participation in the project funded under the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award between the date of disclosure and the completion of Tri-State's review.

(3) Whenever Tri-State identifies a significant financial interest that was not disclosed timely by an Investigator or, for whatever reason, was not previously reviewed by Tri-State during an ongoing project funded under a DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award (e.g., was not timely reviewed or reported by a subrecipient), the Designated Official shall, within sixty days: review the significant financial interest; determine whether it is related to the project funded under a DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award; determine whether a financial conflict of interest exists; and, if so:

(i) Implement, on at least an interim basis, a management plan that shall specify the actions that have been and will be taken to manage such financial conflict of interest going forward;

(ii) (A) In addition, whenever a financial conflict of interest is not identified or managed in a timely manner, including failure by the Investigator to disclose a significant financial interest that is determined by Tri-State to constitute a financial conflict of interest; failure by Tri-State to review or manage such a financial conflict of interest; or failure by the Investigator to comply with a financial conflict of interest management plan, Tri-State's designated official shall, within 120 days of Tri-State's determination of noncompliance, complete a retrospective review of the Investigator's activities and the project funded under the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award to determine whether any project activity, or portion thereof, conducted during the time period of the noncompliance, was biased in the purpose, design, conduct, or reporting of such project.

(B) Tri-State is required to document the retrospective review; such documentation shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, all of the following key elements:

(1) DOE award number (or other applicable Federal award number);

(2) Project title;



- (3) PI or contact PI if a multiple PI model is used;
  - (4) Name of the Investigator with the financial conflict of interest;
  - (5) Name of the entity with which the Investigator has a financial conflict of interest;
  - (6) Reason(s) for the retrospective review;
  - (7) Detailed methodology used for the retrospective review (e.g., methodology of the review process, composition of the review panel, documents reviewed);
  - (8) Findings of the review; and
  - (9) Conclusions of the review.
- (iii) Based on the results of the retrospective review, if appropriate, Tri-State shall update the previously submitted FCOI report, specifying the actions that will be taken to manage the financial conflict of interest going forward. If bias is found, Tri-State is required to notify the DOE Program Office promptly and submit a mitigation report to the DOE Program Office. The mitigation report must include, at a minimum, the key elements documented in the retrospective review above, a description of the impact of the bias on the project, and Tri-State's plan of action or actions taken to eliminate or mitigate the effect of the bias (e.g., impact on the project; extent of harm done, including any qualitative and quantitative data to support any actual or future harm; analysis of whether the project is salvageable). Thereafter, Tri-State will submit FCOI reports annually, as specified elsewhere in this Policy. DOE Program Offices may, by language in Funding Opportunity Announcements (FOAs) or by term and condition of award, require more frequent reporting for awards. Depending on the nature of the financial conflict of interest, Tri-State may determine that additional interim measures are necessary with regard to the Investigator's participation in the project funded under the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award between the date that the conflict of interest or the Investigator's noncompliance is determined and the completion of Tri-State's retrospective review.
- (4) Whenever Tri-State implements a management plan pursuant to this Policy, Tri-State shall monitor Investigator compliance with the management plan on an ongoing basis until the completion of the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award.
  - (5) (i) Prior to Tri-State's expenditure of any funds under a DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award, Tri-State shall ensure public accessibility, via written response to any requestor within five business days of a request, of information concerning any significant financial interest disclosed to Tri-State that meets the following three criteria:
    - (A) The significant financial interest is still held by the senior/key personnel as defined by this Policy;



(B) Tri-State determined that the significant financial interest is related to the project funded under the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award; and

(C) Tri-State determined that the significant financial interest is a financial conflict of interest.

(ii) The information that Tri-State makes available via written response to any requestor within five business days of a request, shall include, at a minimum, the following: the Investigator's name; the Investigator's title and role with respect to the project; the name of the entity in which the significant financial interest is held; the nature of the significant financial interest; and the approximate dollar value of the significant financial interest (dollar ranges are permissible: \$0 - \$4,999; \$5,000-\$9,999; \$10,000-\$19,999; amounts between \$20,000-\$100,000 by increments of \$20,000; amounts above \$100,000 by increments of \$50,000), or a statement that the interest is one whose value cannot be readily determined through reference to public prices or other reasonable measures of fair market value.

(iii)(A) If Tri-State uses a publicly accessible website for the purposes of this subsection, the information that Tri-State posts shall be updated at least annually. In addition, Tri-State shall update the website within sixty days of Tri-State's receipt or identification of information concerning any additional significant financial interest of the senior/key personnel for the project funded under the DOE award or other applicable Federal financial assistance award that was not previously disclosed, or upon the disclosure of a significant financial interest of senior/key personnel new to the project, if Tri-State determines that the significant financial interest is related to the project and is a financial conflict of interest. The website shall note that the information provided is current as of the date listed and is subject to updates, on at least an annual basis and within sixty days of Tri-State's identification of a new financial conflict of interest.

(B) If Tri-State responds to written requests for the purposes of this subsection, Tri-State will note in its written response that the information provided is current as of the date of the correspondence and is subject to updates, on at least an annual basis and within sixty days of Tri-State's identification of a new financial conflict of interest, which should be requested subsequently by the requestor.

(iv) Information concerning the significant financial interests of an individual subject to paragraph (a)(5) of this section shall remain available, for responses to written requests, for at least three years from the date that the information was most recently updated.

(b) Reporting of financial conflicts of interest for DOE-funded projects.

(1) Prior to Tri-State's expenditure of any funds under a DOE-funded project, Tri-State's Designated Official shall provide to the DOE Program Office a FCOI report regarding any Investigator's unmanaged or unmanageable significant financial interest found by Tri-State to be



conflicting. DOE Program Offices may, by language in FOAs or term and condition of award, require Tri-State's FCOI report also list any Investigator's significant financial interest found by Tri-State to be conflicting and addressed by a management plan in accordance with this Policy.

Tri-State shall provide, on request, FCOI reports and supporting documentation about any significant financial interest found by Tri-State to be conflicting, regardless of whether or not the conflict has been managed, mitigated, or eliminated. In cases in which Tri-State identifies a financial conflict of interest and eliminates it prior to the expenditure of DOE-awarded funds, Tri-State will not submit a FCOI report to the DOE Program Office.

(2) For any significant financial interest that Tri-State identifies as conflicting subsequent to Tri-State's initial FCOI report during an ongoing project funded under a DOE award (e.g., upon the participation of an Investigator who is new to the project), Tri-State's designated official shall:

(i) ***[Applicable when a DOE Program Office requires Tri-State to include only unmanaged or unmanageable Investigator FCOIs in the FCOI Report]*** Provide to DOE within sixty days an FCOI report regarding the financial conflict of interest if Tri-State's designated official determines that the FCOI is unmanageable. Pursuant to paragraph (a)(3)(ii) of this section, where such FCOI report involves a significant financial interest that was not disclosed timely by an Investigator or, for whatever reason, was not previously reviewed or managed by Tri-State (e.g., was not timely reviewed or reported by a subrecipient), Tri-State also is required to complete a retrospective review to determine whether any project funded under a DOE award or portion thereof conducted prior to the identification of the financial conflict of interest was biased in the purpose, design, conduct, or reporting of such project. Additionally, pursuant to paragraph (a)(3)(iii) of this section, if bias is found, Tri-State is required to notify the DOE Program Office promptly and submit a mitigation report to the DOE Program Office.

(ii) ***[Applicable when a DOE Program Office requires Tri-State to include all Investigator FCOIs – including managed and unmanaged/unmanageable FCOIs – in the FCOI Report]*** Provide to DOE within sixty days, an FCOI report regarding the financial conflict of interest and ensure that Tri-State has implemented a management plan in accordance with this Policy. Pursuant to paragraph (a)(3)(ii) of this section, where such FCOI report involves a significant financial interest that was not disclosed timely by an Investigator or, for whatever reason, was not previously reviewed or managed by Tri-State (e.g., was not timely reviewed or reported by a subrecipient), Tri-State also is required to complete a retrospective review to determine whether any project funded under a DOE award, or portion thereof, conducted prior to the identification and management of the financial conflict of interest was biased in the purpose, design, conduct, or reporting of such project. Additionally, pursuant to paragraph (a)(3)(iii) of this section, if bias is found, Tri-State is required to notify the DOE Program Office promptly and submit a mitigation report to the DOE Program Office.



(3) Any FCOI report required under paragraphs (b)(1) or (b)(2) of this section shall include sufficient information to enable DOE to understand the nature and extent of the financial conflict, and to assess the appropriateness of Tri-State's management plan. Elements of the FCOI report shall include, but are not necessarily limited to the following:

- (i) DOE award number;
  - (ii) PI or Contact PI if a multiple PI model is used;
  - (iii) Name of the Investigator with the financial conflict of interest;
  - (iv) Name of the entity with which the Investigator has a financial conflict of interest;
  - (v) Nature of any applicable financial interest (e.g., equity, consulting fee, travel reimbursement, honorarium) and/or applicable external relationships or activities;
  - (vi) Value of any applicable financial interest (dollar ranges are permissible: \$0 - \$4,999; \$5,000-\$9,999; \$10,000-\$19,999; amounts between \$20,000-\$100,000 by increments of \$20,000; amounts above \$100,000 by increments of \$50,000), or a statement that the interest is one whose value cannot be readily determined through reference to public prices or other reasonable measures of fair market value;
  - (vii) A description of how the financial interest relates to the project funded under a DOE award and the basis for Tri-State's determination that there is a conflict with such project; and
  - (viii) ***[Applicable when a DOE Program Office requires Tri-State to include all Investigator FCOIs – including managed and unmanaged/unmanageable FCOIs – in the FCOI Report]*** A description of the key elements of Tri-State's management plan, including:
    - (A) Role and principal duties of the conflicted Investigator in the project;
    - (B) Conditions of the management plan;
    - (C) How the management plan is designed to safeguard objectivity in the project;
    - (D) Confirmation of the Investigator's agreement to the management plan;
    - (E) How the management plan will be monitored to ensure Investigator compliance; and
    - (F) Other information as needed.
- (4) For any financial conflict of interest previously reported by Tri-State with regard to an ongoing project funded under a DOE award, Tri-State's Designated Official will provide DOE with an annual FCOI report that addresses the status of the financial conflict of interest and, if applicable, any changes to the management plan for the duration of the DOE award.



(5) In addition to the annual FCOI report, DOE may require that Tri-State routinely submit all or some Investigator disclosures of financial interests in these, or other, circumstances:

- (i) As part of monitoring Tri-State's compliance with this Policy;
  - (ii) Bankruptcy or other legal winding down;
  - (iii) Acquisition of the Tri-State by a foreign entity, where "acquisition" includes a foreign entity obtaining a controlling interest in the non-Federal entity; or
  - (iv) As otherwise set forth in 2 CFR §200, as amended by 2 CFR §910.
- (c) For projects other than DOE-funded projects, Tri-State will report conflicts of interest in accordance with the requirements of the applicable Federal entity or program.

## **6.0 Organizational Conflicts of Interest (OCOI)**

Tri-State is committed to effectively managing and mitigating the potential for organizational conflict of interest in DOE financial assistance awards and other Federal financial assistance awards. Tri-State must disclosure potential and actual organizational conflicts of interest in accordance with the requirement of the applicable Federal financial assistance award.

Disclosures for DOE Awards. Tri-State must disclose in writing any potential or actual organizational conflict of interest pertaining to a DOE award to the DOE Program Office. Tri-State must provide the disclosure to DOE in an application for financial assistance or prior to engaging in a procurement or transaction using DOE funds with a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization. The elements of the disclosure shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- (i) The name, address, and website (as applicable) of the entity that presents a potential or actual organizational conflict of interest;
- (ii) The relationship between Tri-State and the entity at issue;
- (iii) The nature of the anticipated procurement or other transaction with the parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization; the anticipated value of the procurement or other transaction; and the basis for making the procurement or other transaction with a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization;
- (iv) The basis for Tri-State's determination regarding the existence of an organizational conflict of interest; and
- (v) How Tri-State will avoid, neutralize, or mitigate the organizational conflict of interest.

If the effects of the potential or actual organizational conflict of interest cannot be avoided, neutralized, or mitigated, the anticipated procurement or other transaction using DOE funds may not be made. Where there is an organizational conflict of interest that cannot be avoided,



neutralized, or mitigated, Tri-State must procure goods and services from other sources when using DOE funds.

## **7.0 Remedies**

If the failure of an Investigator to comply with Tri-State's financial conflict of interest policy or a management plan appears to have biased the purpose, design, conduct, or reporting of the project funded under a DOE award, Tri-State shall promptly notify the DOE of the failure to comply and of the corrective action taken or to be taken. In addition, following the failure of an Investigator to comply with Tri-State's financial conflict of interest policy or a management plan, Tri-State will incorporate any directions or recommended actions from DOE on how to maintain objectivity in the project funded under the DOE, for example, require Tri-State to enforce any applicable corrective actions prior to a DOE award or when the transfer of a DOE award involves such an Investigator.

If Tri-State fails to disclose an organizational conflict of interest to DOE prior to engaging in a procurement or transaction using DOE funds with a parent, affiliate, or subsidiary organization, Tri-State recognizes that the costs of such procurement or transaction may be disallowed. Further, if the organizational conflict of interest is not avoided, neutralized, or managed, Tri-State recognizes that DOE may determine that imposition of specific award conditions under 2 CFR 200.208 and/or 2 CFR 200.208 is necessary and Tri-State will comply with such actions.

For projects other than DOE-funded projects, Tri-State will undertake remedies for non-compliance with Tri-State's financial conflict of interest policy in accordance with the requirements of the applicable award or Federal entity granting the award.



**ATTACHMENT TO**  
**Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.**  
**Conflict of Interest Policy for Department of Energy Financial Assistance**

**SFI AND SPONSORED TRAVEL DISCLOSURE**

Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Disclosing Person: \_\_\_\_\_

**1.0 Purpose.** This form is required to be completed by each Investigator pursuant to the Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. (“Tri-State”) Conflict of Interest Policy for Federal Financial Assistance.

**2.0 Significant Financial Interests.** Please disclose below your personal significant financial interests (and those of your spouse and dependent children) consisting of any of the following assets reasonably related to your Tri-State responsibilities:

**Publicly Traded Entities:**

☐ None

With regard to any foreign or domestic publicly traded entity, a significant financial interest exists if the value of any remuneration received from the entity in the twelve months preceding the disclosure and the value of any equity interest in the entity as of the date of disclosure, when aggregated, exceeds \$5,000. For purposes of this definition, remuneration includes salary and any payment for services not otherwise identified as salary (e.g., consulting fees, honoraria, paid authorship); equity interest includes any stock, stock option, or other ownership interest, as determined through reference to public prices or other reasonable measures of fair market value. **This does not include interests in mutual funds and retirement funds in which you do not directly control investment decisions.**

**Non-Publicly Traded Entities:**

☐ None

With regard to any foreign or domestic non-publicly traded entity, a significant financial interest exists if the value of any remuneration, not otherwise disclosed as current, pending, or other support, received from the entity in the twelve months preceding the disclosure, when aggregated, exceeds \$5,000, or when the Investigator (or the Investigator’s spouse or dependent children) holds any equity interest (e.g., stock, stock option, or other ownership interest).

**Intellectual Property Rights and Interests:**

☐ None

Intellectual property rights and interests (e.g., patents, copyrights), upon receipt of income related to such rights and interests.

**3.0 Sponsored Travel.** Please disclose the occurrence of any reimbursed travel or sponsored travel (i.e., that which is paid on behalf of you and not reimbursed to you so that the exact monetary value may not be readily available) related to your Tri-State responsibilities within the last 12 months:

Trip Purpose	Sponsor/Organizer	Destination	Duration



☐ None

This disclosure requirement does not apply to travel that is reimbursed or sponsored by a Federal, state, or local government agency of the United States.

**4.0 Form Submission.** I understand that this Disclosure is required to obtain funding from the U.S. Government.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (name), \_\_\_\_\_ (title), certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the information contained in this Disclosure Statement is true, complete, and accurate. I understand that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, misrepresentations, half-truths, or omissions of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims, or otherwise. (18 U.S.C. §§ 1001 and 287, and 31 U.S.C. 3729 -3730 and 3801-3812). I further understand and agree that (1) the statements and representations made herein are material to U.S. Government's funding decision, and (2) I have a responsibility to update the disclosures during the period of performance of the award should circumstances change which impact the responses provided above.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Upon completion of this disclosure form, please email it as an attachment to [jeffrey.s.king@tristategt.org](mailto:jeffrey.s.king@tristategt.org)