



Scientific and Scholarly Integrity Policy at the Department of Interior



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Why are Federal agencies talking about this now?



- Presidential Memorandum on Scientific Integrity (March 9, 2009)
- Office of Science and Technology Policy Memorandum on Scientific Integrity (December 17, 2010)
- Secretarial Order 3305: Ensuring Scientific Integrity within the Department of the Interior (September 29, 2010)
- DOI Scientific and Scholarly Integrity Policy V1: Jan 2011
 - V2 in summer 2013



Science Integrity is...

...the condition resulting from adherence to professional values and practices when conducting and applying the results of science and scholarship that ensures objectivity, clarity, reproducibility, and utility and that provides insulation from bias, fabrication, falsification, plagiarism, outside interference, censorship, and inadequate procedural and information security.



Integrity is essential for credibility

Credibility and
Reputation of Bureau
& Agency

Credibility and Reputation of
Individual Scientist Employees

Adherence to
Professional
Codes of Conduct

Avoiding Real and
Potential Conflicts
of Interest

Behaving Ethically
at All Times

Willing to Consider
New Data and Analyses

Participation in
Peer Review

Publishing in
Reputable Outlets

Having a Deep Understanding of
Subject Matter and Staying Current

Adhering to the Scientific Method
and the Process of Science

Scientific Integrity is maintained when all of the building blocks are solid and uncompromised. A transgression in any of elements of these building blocks could undermine the credibility of the individual scientists involved and potentially damage the reputation of the entire bureau or agency.



Goal of the policy: a culture of integrity

- DOI decisions informed by science and scholarship are respected as credible.
- DOI science is conducted with integrity and excellence.
- DOI has a culture of scientific and scholarly integrity that is enduring.
- DOI scientists and scholars are widely recognized for excellence.
- DOI employees are proud to uphold the high standards and lead by example.

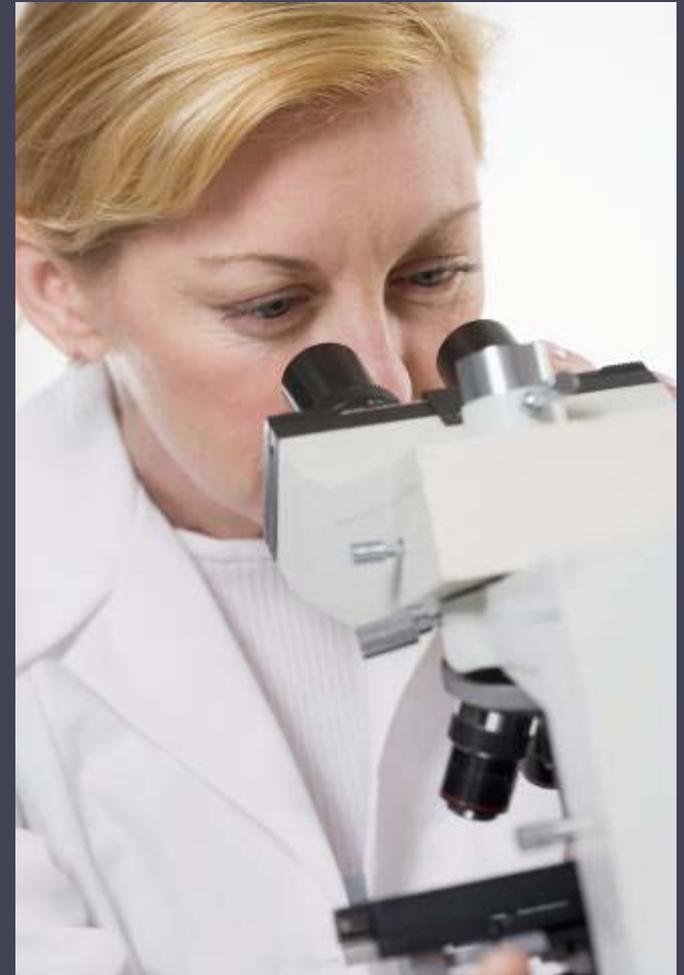


Policy applies to everyone!

Policy applies to all DOI employees, including political appointees, as well as:

- contractors
- cooperators
- partners
- permittees
- leasees
- grantees
- and volunteers

when they engage in, supervise, manage, or influence scientific and scholarly activities, or communicate information about the Department's scientific and scholarly activities, or utilize scientific and scholarly information in making agency policy, management or regulatory decisions.





Fundamental principles that guided the policy's development

1. Define expectations of behavior for all
2. Encourage the free-flow of information
3. Establish transparency expectations
4. Make scientific credentials part of hiring criteria
5. Encourage scientists to communicate openly
6. Reinforce principles of whistleblower protection
7. Ensure training makes expectations clear to all
8. Encourage scientists to engage with communities of practice
9. Examine issues and correct any problems that arise
10. Best practices throughout the Department

Objective: Detect, and take corrective actions on issues before they become significant and potentially damaging to the scientists and/or agency.



Skin on the bones: DOI policy has people behind the paper

- Creates Scientific Integrity Officers (SIO)
 - Departmental and bureau-level
 - Ombudsman role
 - **SIOs** are the primary point of contact
 - Leads initial review of allegations
 - Council of SIOs (peer group)
 - May determine that Scientific Integrity Review Panel (SIRP) is needed. SIO oversees the SIRP.



What's new in V2 of the policy?

- *Scientific and Scholarly Integrity Procedures Handbook*
- *Ombudsman role for SIOs*
- Scientific and Scholarly *Integrity Council*
- Updated to match *Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012*
- New section in the Handbook on "The *Importance of Protection from Reprisal*"
- *Appeals process added*
- *Made intent more clear*

- Also, other policies have been updated to incorporate SI: communications, social media

