Preliminary Determination of the Claims Review Staff

In response to the above-referenced Notice of Covered Action, the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission received whistleblower award claims from [redacted] (collectively, “Claimants”).

Pursuant to Section 21F of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the “Exchange Act”) and Rule 21F-10 promulgated thereunder, the Claims Review Staff has evaluated the above claims in accordance with the criteria set forth in Rules 21F-1 through 21F-17. The Claims Review Staff has preliminarily determined to recommend that the Commission deny the above award claims. The basis for this determination is as follows:

Claimants did not provide information that led to the successful enforcement of the above-referenced Covered Action within the meaning of Section 21F(b)(1) of the Exchange Act and Rules 21F-3(a)(3) and 21F-4(c) thereunder because the information provided did not:

1. cause the Commission to (i) commence an examination, (ii) open or reopen an investigation, or (iii) inquire into different conduct as part of a current Commission examination or investigation under Rule 21F-4(c)(1) of the Exchange Act; or

2. significantly contribute to the success of a Commission judicial or administrative enforcement action under Rule 21F-4(c)(2) of the Exchange Act.

In reaching this preliminary recommendation, we note that the record reflects that the investigation that resulted in the Covered Action was not opened based on information provided by Claimants. Further, Enforcement staff responsible for the Covered Action received no information from, or had communications with, any of the Claimants.

By: Claims Review Staff

Date: September 27, 2019