ORDER DETERMINING WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD CLAIM

The Claims Review Staff ("CRS") issued a Preliminary Determination recommending that ("Claimant") receive a whistleblower award of thirty percent (30%) of the monetary sanctions collected, or to be collected, in the above-referenced Covered Action (the "Covered Action").

The recommendation of the CRS is adopted. The record demonstrates that Claimant voluntarily provided original information to the Commission that led to the successful enforcement of the Covered Action.\(^1\)

Rule 21F-6(c) establishes a presumption of a statutory maximum award of 30% where (1) the maximum award would be $5 million or less; (2) none of the negative award factors under Rule 21F-6(b)—i.e., culpability, unreasonable reporting delay, or interference with an internal compliance and reporting system—are present; and (3) the award claim does not trigger Rule 21F-16.\(^2\) The Commission may depart from the presumption if (1) the assistance provided by


\(^2\) Rule 21F-16 concerns whistleblowers who engage in culpable conduct. See 17 C.F.R. § 240.21F-16.
the whistleblower was, “under the relevant facts and circumstances, limited,” or (2) a maximum award “would be inconsistent with the public interest, the promotion of investor protection, or the objectives of the whistleblower program.”

The presumption applies here because a maximum award would not exceed $5 million, no negative factors under Rule 21F-6(b) are present with respect to the award application, and the award claim does not trigger Rule 21F-16. In addition, the Commission finds that the presumption is not overcome, as Claimant provided more than limited assistance. The Commission also finds that application of the presumption would not be inconsistent with the public interest, the promotion of investor protection, or the objectives of the whistleblower program.

In reaching this determination, the Commission considered that Claimant alerted the Commission to the ongoing fraud prompting the opening of the investigation, participated in a voluntary interview with Commission staff, and provided numerous documents that assisted the staff in its investigation, saving Commission staff time and resources. There also have been no collections to date in the matter.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that Claimant shall receive an award of thirty percent (30%) of the monetary sanctions collected or to be collected in the Covered Action.

By the Commission.

Vanessa A. Countryman
Secretary