

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Before the

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Release No. 97051 / March 7, 2023

WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD PROCEEDING

File No. 2023-41

In the Matter of the Claim for Award

in connection with

Redacted

Redacted

Notice of Covered Action Redacted

ORDER DETERMINING WHISTLEBLOWER AWARD CLAIM

The Claims Review Staff (“CRS”) issued a Preliminary Determination recommending that Redacted (“Joint Claimants”) jointly¹ receive a whistleblower award of approximately \$500,000, which is equal to *** percent (*** %) of the amount collected in the above-referenced Covered Action (“Covered Action”). The recommendation of the CRS is adopted. The record demonstrates that the Joint Claimants voluntarily provided original information to the Commission and that this original information led to the successful enforcement of the Covered Action.²

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¹ We have determined to treat the Joint Claimants jointly as a “whistleblower” for purposes of the award determination given that their information and Forms WB-APP were submitted together via the same counsel. *See* Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (“Exchange Act”) Section 21F(a)(6) (defining a “whistleblower” to include two or more individuals acting jointly who provide information relating to a violation of the securities laws to the Commission). Unless the Joint Claimants, within ten (10) calendar days of the issuance of this Order, make a joint request, in writing, for a different allocation of the award between the two of them, the Office of the Whistleblower is directed to pay each of them individually 50% of their joint award.

² *See* Exchange Act Section 21F(b)(1), 15 U.S.C. § 78u-6(b)(1); Exchange Act Rule 21F-3, 17 C.F.R. § 240.21F-3.

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The Joint Claimants promptly provided significant information to another agency, which shared it with the Commission staff, alerting Commission staff to the fraudulent conduct, and prompting the opening of the investigation. Thereafter, the Joint Claimants submitted a TCR and provided continuing helpful assistance to the Commission staff, including meeting with them and providing additional important information and documents concerning their allegations.

Accordingly, it is hereby ORDERED that the Joint Claimants shall receive an award of *** percent (*** %) of the monetary sanctions collected in the Covered Action.

By the Commission.

Vanessa A. Countryman
Secretary

4 Redacted

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