§ 171.40 Purpose and scope.

This subpart sets forth the regulations under which persons may request access to the public financial disclosure reports of employees of the Department as well as limits to such requests and use of such information. The Ethics in Government Act 1978, as amended, and the Office of Government Ethics implementing regulations, 5 CFR part 2634, require that high-level Federal officials disclose publicly their personal financial interests.

§ 171.41 Covered employees.

(a) Officers and employees (including special Government employees as defined in 18 U.S.C. 202) whose positions are classified at grades GS–16 and above of the General Schedule, or the rate of basic pay for which is fixed, other than under the General Schedule, at a rate equal to or greater than the 120% of the minimum rate of basic pay for GS–15 of the General Schedule;

(b) Officers or employees in any other positions determined by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics to be of equal classification to GS–16;

(c) Employees in the excepted service in positions that are of a confidential or policy-making character, unless by regulation their positions have been excluded by the Director of the Office of Government Ethics;

(d) The designated agency official who acts as the Department’s Ethics Officer;

(e) Incumbent officials holding positions referred to above if they have served 61 days or more in the position during the preceding calendar year.

(f) Officials who have terminated employment from a position referred to above and who have not accepted another such position within 30 days of such termination.

§ 171.42 Requests and identifying information.

Requests for access to public financial disclosure reports of covered employees should be made in writing to the Information and Privacy Coordinator at the address given in §171.5 setting forth:

(a) The name and/or position title of the Department of State official who is the subject of the request,

(b) The time period covered by the report requested,

(c) A completed Office of Government Ethics request form, OGE Form 201, October, 1999. This form may be obtained by writing to the Information and Privacy Coordinator or by visiting the Public Reading Room described in §171.3 or http://www.usoge.gov.

§ 171.43 Time limits and fees.

(a) Reports shall be made available within thirty (30) days from receipt of a request by the Department. The Department does not charge a fee for a single copy of a public financial report. However, the Department will charge for additional copies of a report at a rate of 15 cents per page plus the actual direct cost of mailing the reports. However, the Department will not charge for individual requests if the total charge would be $10.00 or less.