

# Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

## AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Public Meeting on Proposed Partner Vetting System

**AGENCY:** U.S. Agency for International Development.

**ACTION:** Notice of meeting.

**SUMMARY:** USAID will host a meeting for interested parties regarding the proposed Partner Vetting System. Following our System of Records Notice: July 17–August 27, 2007; Rulemaking Notice: July 20–Sept. 18, 2007; Paperwork Reduction Act Notices: July 23–Dec. 3, 2007; and Congressional consultations, USAID is interested in gathering feedback prior to the issuance of a final rule and initial implementation of the system. The goal of this meeting is to answer concerns raised during the public comment periods on this subject and to touch upon the results of our consultations thus far.

**DATES:** This meeting will be held on Friday, April 11, 2008 at 11:30 a.m.

**ADDRESSES:** The meeting will be held at U.S. Agency for International Development, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW., Washington, DC. Photo ID required for admittance into the Ronald Reagan Building as well as USAID.

**Note:** Due to security RSVP required.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** RSVP to Todd Calongne, 202–712–0059, [tcalongne@usaid.gov](mailto:tcalongne@usaid.gov).

Dated: March 31, 2008.

**Jeffrey Grieco,**

*Assistant Administrator for Legislative and Public Affairs.*

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## AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

### Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002; Notice

On May 15, 2002, Congress enacted the “Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002,” which is now known as the No FEAR Act. One purpose of the Act is to “require that Federal agencies be accountable for violations of antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws.” Public Law 107–174, Summary. In support of this purpose, Congress found that “agencies cannot be run effectively if those agencies practice or tolerate discrimination.” Public Law 107–174, Title I, General Provisions, section 101(1).

The Act also requires this agency to provide this notice to Federal employees, former Federal employees and applicants for Federal employment to inform you of the rights and protections available to you under Federal antidiscrimination and whistleblower protection laws.

#### Antidiscrimination Laws

A Federal agency cannot discriminate against an employee or applicant with respect to the terms, conditions or privileges of employment on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, marital status or political affiliation. Discrimination on these bases is prohibited by one or more of the following statutes: 5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(1), 29 U.S.C. 206(d), 29 U.S.C. 631, 29 U.S.C. 633a, 29 U.S.C. 791 and 42 U.S.C. 2000e-16.

This agency also prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. The right to address sexual orientation discrimination derives from Executive Order 13087.

If you believe that you have been the victim of unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, parental status or sexual orientation you must contact an Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) counselor within 45 calendar days of the alleged discriminatory action, or, in the case of a personnel action, within 45 calendar days of the effective date of the action, before you can file a formal complaint of discrimination with the Agency. *See, e.g.,* 29 CFR 1614. If you believe that

you have been the victim of unlawful discrimination on the basis of age, you must either contact an EEO counselor as noted above or give notice of intent to sue to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) within 180 calendar days of the alleged discriminatory action. If you are alleging discrimination based on marital status or political affiliation, you may file a written complaint with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) (see contact information below). In the alternative (or in some cases, in addition), you may pursue a discrimination complaint by filing a grievance through the Agency’s administrative or negotiated grievance procedures, if such procedures apply and are available.

#### Whistleblower Protection Laws

A Federal employee with authority to take, direct others to take, recommend or approve any personnel action must not use that authority to take or fail to take, or threaten to take or fail to take, a personnel action against an employee or applicant because of disclosure of information by that individual that is reasonably believed to evidence violations of law, rule or regulation; gross mismanagement; gross waste of funds; an abuse of authority; or a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, unless disclosure of such information is specifically prohibited by law and such information is specifically required by Executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or the conduct of foreign affairs.

Retaliation against an employee or applicant for making a protected disclosure is prohibited by 5 U.S.C. 2302(b)(8). If you believe that you have been the victim of whistleblower retaliation, you may file a written complaint (Form OSC–11) with the U.S. Office of Special Counsel at 1730 M Street, NW., Suite 218, Washington, DC 20036–4505 or online through the OSC Web site <http://www.osc.gov>.

#### Retaliation for Engaging in Protected Activity

A Federal agency cannot retaliate against an employee or applicant because that individual exercises his or her rights under any of the Federal antidiscrimination or whistleblower protection laws listed above. If you believe that you are the victim of retaliation for engaging in protected