an appropriate reduction shall be made to the employee’s reimbursement (46 CG 689 (1967)).

(d) When participation at a function is not in an official capacity, an employee may accept reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses from a private source, provided that such acceptance is permitted by law and Federal regulations. Participation as a private citizen must occur on one’s own time, such as while on leave. If participation should occur during the course of official travel (i.e., evening or weekend hours during official travel status), the travel voucher submitted for Government reimbursement of official duty expenses must be adjusted to claim only that per diem and travel attributable to official duty. Employees who are in positions for which the rate of pay is specified in 5 U.S.C. 5311–5318 (the Executive Schedule) are on 24-hour duty, and determinations of what constitutes official duty and what is private participation should be carefully made.

§ 20.302 Exclusions.

(a) Where employee travel is for attendance at a meeting or similar function (31 U.S.C. 1353(a)), the Department may accept payment for the employee and/or the employee’s spouse’s travel from a non-Federal source when proper consideration is given to the conditions in paragraph (a)(1) of this section and a written authorization to accept payment is issued in advance of the travel.

(1) Conditions. Such travel expenses paid for by a non-Federal source may be accepted by the Department only if all of the following conditions are met:

(i) The travel relates to the employee’s official duties;

(ii) The travel, subsistence and related expenses are with respect to the attendance of an employee (and/or the accompanying spouse of such employee when applicable) at a meeting or similar function. This includes a conference, seminar, speaking engagement, symposium, training course, or similar event that takes place away from the employee’s official station, and is sponsored or cosponsored by a non-Federal source;

(iii) The non-Federal source is not disqualified because of a real or apparent conflict of interest as determined under paragraph (a)(2) of this section; and

(iv) The travel event is not required to carry out the Department’s statutory or regulatory functions. Examples of statutory or regulatory functions that are essential to the Department’s mission include investigations, inspections, audits, site visits, compliance reviews or program evaluations.

(2) Conflict of interest analysis. (i) The Department’s acceptance of any payment from a non-Federal source under the authority of 31 U.S.C. 1353 shall not be approved when an Authorized Approving Official, identified in paragraph (a)(2)(iii) of this section, determines that under the circumstances, acceptance of the travel expenses would cause a reasonable person with knowledge of all relevant facts to:

(A) Question the integrity of the work to be performed by the employee receiving the benefit; or

(B) Question the integrity of the Department’s other program operations.

(ii) When making these determinations, an Authorized Approving Official shall be guided by all relevant considerations including, but not limited to:

(A) The identity of the non-Federal source and the source’s relationship to the Department;

(B) The purpose of the meeting or similar function and its relationship to the Department’s programs or operations;

(C) The identity of other expected participants and their relationship to the Department;

(D) The nature and sensitivity of any pending Department matter which, when decided, may affect the interests of the non-Federal source;

(E) The significance of the employee’s role in any such pending matter;

(F) The monetary value and character of the travel benefits offered by the non-Federal source;

(G) The potential reaction from Department customers, including the public, if the acceptance of travel expenses was made known to them.

(iii) An “Authorized Approving Official” means that Department official who has been delegated authority to approve the usual travel authorizations.
§ 20.401 Interests in Federal lands.

(a) Statutory prohibition applicable to employees of the Bureau of Land Management. (1) In accordance with 43 U.S.C. 11, employees of the Bureau of Land Management are prohibited from voluntarily acquiring a direct or indirect interest in Federal lands.

(2) Definitions. For purposes of applying the prohibition in 43 U.S.C. 11:

(i) Federal lands. means public lands or resources or an interest in lands or resources administered or controlled by the Department, including, but not limited to, all submerged lands lying seaward outside of the area of “lands beneath navigable water” as defined in 43 U.S.C. 1301(a), and of which the subsoil and seabed appertain to the United States and are subject to its jurisdiction and control.