**Freezes on Operations for Federal Sponsor**

The Research Office knows about two federal agencies that have been hit with the mandatory “freeze” issued by the President’s Office. This number is likely to change as the day goes on.

All HHS agencies (primarily NIH, but also AHRQ and others) have abruptly cancelled meetings (some of which were actually in session at the time) which includes grant review panels. There is also a hiring freeze and an indefinite ban on travel for NIH staff. Moreover, there is a separately issued communication ban. HHS staff can no longer publish regulations, social media posts, press releases or any other communication, which would include speaking engagements. So, our ability to learn more is limited.

The Department of Energy also has a hold on all of its operations. Anyone awaiting a funding decision will have to wait longer than is typical. Moreover, future funding opportunities will be adjusted to reflect the priorities of the new administration. This is an extraordinary move, since typically incoming administrations respect the funding decisions that were made and ratified by a previous administration. We expect that the EERE program is the most likely to be affected, but we don’t know that for certain.

We are watching this development carefully and continually, and we will keep all of you updated as we learn more. It certainly seems likely that more agency freezes are planned, so stand by for information as we receive it.