

Dear Stony Brook researchers,

The Office for Research and Innovation (OR&I) is closely monitoring the recent policy change announced by the Department of Energy (DOE), titled “[Department of Energy Overhauls Policy for College and University Research, Saving \\$405 Million Annually for American Taxpayers.](#)” The policy proposes capping indirect cost (IDC) recovery at 15% for research awards to institutions of higher education.

Since the announcement last Friday, there have been significant developments. A legal challenge to the policy has been filed, and a temporary restraining order (TRO) was issued yesterday. Some institutions have reported receiving letters from DOE requesting acceptance of the 15% IDC rate under threat of award termination. Current guidance for our institution is not to sign or respond to such communications at this time, as implementation of the 15% cap has been temporarily enjoined.

You may begin seeing notices from DOE acknowledging the TRO, as was the case during previous federal policy challenges.

At this time, Principal Investigators do not need to modify IDC rates for current or upcoming proposals. Proposals should continue to use the University’s current federally negotiated F&A rate agreement unless directed otherwise.

We continue to work closely with SUNY and the Research Foundation to assess the implications of this policy and will provide updates as more information becomes available. Please look for future communications via email and on our designated [website](#), and [contact the Office of Sponsored Programs](#) if you have any questions or need assistance.

Best regards,

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