PUBLIC VERSION

THIS PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION BECAME THE FINAL ORDER OF THE COMMISSION ON JULY 31, 2026, UNDER SECTION 165.7(h) AND (j) OF THE WHISTLEBLOWER RULES, 17 C.F.R. PART 165, ADOPTED PURSUANT TO SECTION 23 OF THE COMMODITY EXCHANGE ACT, 7 U.S.C. § 26.

In the Matter of Claims for Award by: Redacted In Connection with Notice of Covered Action No. Redacted	CFTC Whistleblower Award Determination No. 26-WB-20

PRELIMINARY DETERMINATION OF THE CLAIMS REVIEW STAFF

The Commodity Futures Trading Commission ("Commission") received a whistleblower award application from Claimant 1 in response to Notice of Covered Action No. Redacted The corresponding enforcement action is Redacted ("Covered Action" or "Order"). Redacted

The Claims Review Staff ("CRS") has evaluated Claimant 1's award application in accordance with the Commission's Whistleblower Rules ("Rules"), 17 C.F.R. pt. 165 (2020), promulgated pursuant to Section 23 of the Commodity Exchange Act ("CEA" or "Act"), 7 U.S.C. § 26 (2018). The CRS sets forth its Preliminary Determination for Claimant 1 as follows:

1. The Commission should grant Claimant 1's award claim because it meets the requirements of Section 23 of the CEA and the Rules. Claimant 1 voluntarily provided the Commission with original information that led to the successful enforcement of a covered action. Claimant 1 also meets all eligibility requirements for an award. *See* 17 C.F.R. §§ 165.5(b).

Further, Claimant 1 does not fall into any of the categories of individuals ineligible for an award, as set forth in Rule 165.6(a), 17 C.F.R. § 165.6(a).

2. The CRS recommends awarding Claimant 1 Redacted of monetary sanctions collected in the Covered Action. Redacted

3. The CRS has discretion in determining the award amount but shall consider certain criteria specified in the CEA. 7 U.S.C. § 26(c)(1)(A). The Rules incorporate the CEA criteria and list additional factors that may increase or decrease the award amount. *See* 17 C.F.R. § 165.9. The determination of the appropriate award amount involves a highly individualized review of the facts and circumstances. In arriving at this award amount, the CRS has applied the relevant factors to Claimant 1's award application. Many positive factors that would increase the award amount apply to Claimant 1, and no negative factor that would decrease the award amount applies.

4. Claimant 1's information helped substantially with the investigation. Claimant 1's information was specific, credible, and timely. Claimant 1's information was very significant because Claimant 1 had Redacted provided direct evidence of Redacted Claimant 1 participated in at least Redacted interviews with CFTC staff during the matter and voluntarily agreed to fly to Redacted serve as a witness Redacted

5. Claimant 1 fully cooperated with the CFTC's investigation and provided all the assistance staff requested. Claimant's assistance was substantial. Claimant 1's cooperation included Redacted meeting with staff multiple times, and providing staff with pertinent documents and evidence Redacted. Claimant 1 lives in Redacted but traveled to Redacted to help with the investigation Redacted

6. Claimant 1 was not involved in the conduct at issue in the Covered Action. Claimant 1 was a Redacted, not Redacted. Further, Claimant 1 did not unreasonably delay reporting information to the Commission. Claimant 1 contacted staff a few months after the investigation opened.

7. The totality of the facts and circumstances justifies a Redacted award. The Commission has strong programmatic and law enforcement interests in deterring virtual currencies fraud like the one in the Covered Action. Recognizing whistleblowers like Claimant 1 enhances the Commission's ability to enforce its rules and regulations and protect other customers.

Dated: April 16, 2026

Whistleblower Claims Review Staff
Commodity Futures Trading Commission
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