



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 09 2018

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Honorable Tom Carper
Ranking Member
Committee on Environment and Public Works
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Carper:

You wrote to us on March 28, 2018, to request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) conduct an immediate review of the EPA's oversight of its employee time and attendance practices. You specifically noted allegations that Ms. Samantha Dravis, Associate Administrator of the EPA's Office of Policy, did not work for much of November 2017 through January 2018 but was still compensated as a full-time employee. You asked that we review the allegations and any related systematic problems to ensure that the EPA has adhered to the corrective actions implemented subsequent to the criminal fraud committed by John Beale to ensure that it did not happen again. While Ms. Dravis has subsequently announced that she is leaving the EPA, the issues you raise would not be answered by her departure. After analyzing your request, we have decided to conduct the requested review.

As I have noted in previous letters to Congress, in determining whether the OIG can undertake requested work, initially we have to find that the matter is within our jurisdiction. But, beyond that threshold question, we have to determine whether we have sufficient resources—people, time and funds—to do a project in a timely fashion and whether it would preclude our doing other crucial work. The OIG has been funded at less than the levels we deem adequate to do all of the work that should be done, and we therefore have to make difficult decisions about whether to accept any given potential undertaking. Many of our projects are statutorily mandated work, with Congress adding new mandates each session. Further, our annual work plan, which is also statutorily mandated, uses a risk-based analysis that identifies dozens of additional high-impact projects. All of this means that for every discretionary review the OIG decides to undertake there will be others we cannot.

However, despite these constraints, we have determined that the issues raised in your letter are within the authority of the OIG to review and we will do so. We will inform you and your staff when we complete the review.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the OIG. If you have any questions about this or any other matter, please contact Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General, at (202) 566-2391.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur A. Elkins Jr.", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Arthur A. Elkins Jr.