



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

OCT 17 2017

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Pallone:

You wrote on September 27, 2017, to request that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) expand the scope of its ongoing review of the EPA's travel policies and procedures to include the EPA Administrator's use of private planes and government aircraft.

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 fact is that 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 that the OIG decides to undertake, there will be others we cannot.

Analyzing your request in light of these constraints, we have decided to expand the scope of our ongoing review as set forth in the enclosed amended project notification memorandum dated October 5, 2017. The new scope is expanded to include all travel by the Administrator through September 30, 2017. The amended notification memorandum describes our revised objectives and plans for conducting the project.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the OIG. Similar letters were sent to Representatives Diana DeGette and Paul D. Tonko. 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 dark ink, appearing to read "Arthur A. Elkins Jr.", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Arthur A. Elkins Jr.

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 5, 2017

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Amended Project Notification:
Audit of EPA's Adherence to Policies, Procedures and Oversight Controls
Pertaining to the Administrator's Travel
Project No. OA-FY17-0382

FROM: John Trefry, Director, Forensic Audits
Office of Audit

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Trefry", is written over the typed name.

TO: David Bloom, Acting Chief Financial Officer

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to expand the scope of preliminary research on the EPA's adherence to policies, procedures and oversight controls pertaining to the Administrator's travel, which was originally focused on his travel to Oklahoma through July 31, 2017. The scope of our review is expanded to include all travel by the Administrator through September 30, 2017. Our revised objectives will be to determine the following:

- The frequency, cost and extent of the Administrator's travel through September 30, 2017.
- Whether applicable EPA travel policies and procedures were followed for Administrator Pruitt's travel, as well as other EPA staff and security personnel traveling with or in advance of Administrator Pruitt.
- Whether EPA policies and procedures are sufficiently designed to prevent fraud, waste and abuse with the Administrator's travel.

To accomplish these objectives, we will review supporting documentation and conduct interviews with management and staff to determine whether the EPA followed applicable policies and practices, and complied with federal requirements. The OIG plans to work with the EPA's Cincinnati Finance Center and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer to obtain needed information. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our work. The anticipated benefits of this project are to improve operational efficiency.

We will contact the audit coordinator to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our revised objectives. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any questions you may have about the project process, reporting procedures, methods used to

gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the course of the project. Throughout the project, we will provide updates on a regular basis through a monthly meeting or via email, phone or video conference.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978 to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objectives. We will request your resolution if an agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested records to the OIG, or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG. We may report unresolved access matters to the Administrator and include the incident in the Semiannual Report to Congress.

I will supervise the project and the Project Manager will be Angela Bennett. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (202) 566-2474 or trefry.john@epa.gov, or Angela Bennett at (404) 562-9844 or bennett.angela@epa.gov.

cc: Scott Pruitt, Administrator
Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff
Henry Darwin, Chief of Staff for Operations
Kevin Chmielewski, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
Kevin Minoli, Acting General Counsel
Troy Lyons, Associate Administrator for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations
Liz Bowman, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Julia Valentine, Acting Director, Office of Media Relations, Office of Public Affairs
Howard Osborne, Associate Chief Financial Officer
Jeanne Conklin, Controller, Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Bobbie Trent, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Ellen Treimel, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of the Administrator
Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General
Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Edward Shields, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Management
Richard Eyermann, Deputy Inspector General for Audit
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General
Tia Elbaum, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General