



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 22, 2013

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Review of EPA's Classified National Security Information
(Project No. OPE-FY-13-0009)

FROM: Carolyn Copper /s/
Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation

TO: Craig E. Hooks
Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management

Deborah Dietrich
Associate Administrator for Homeland Security

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is reviewing EPA's classified National Security Information (NSI). This project is the result of the Reducing Over-Classification Act (Public Law 111-258; October 7, 2010). Section 6(b)(1) of the Act requires the Inspector General of each agency with an officer or employee who is authorized to make original classifications, in consultation with the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO): "(A) to assess whether applicable classification policies, procedures, rules, and regulations have been adopted, followed, and effectively administered within such department, agency, or component; and (B) to identify policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or management practices that may be contributing to persistent misclassification of material within such department, agency or component."

The OIG has already completed some work to fulfill its statutory requirements under the Act but, after consulting with ISOO, has identified additional areas for review. Our project objectives are to:

- (1) Review a representative sample of EPA's originally and derivatively classified documents to determine whether appropriate classification markings were applied in a manner consistent with applicable classification policies, procedures, rules, and regulations; and
- (2) Determine the appropriateness of the original and derivative classification decisions to identify policies, procedures, or management practices that may be contributing to misclassification of material.

We plan to interview EPA's sole Original Classification Authority (i.e., the EPA Administrator) and a select number of derivative classifiers regarding classification decisions. The OIG is required by law to complete its work by September 30, 2013.

The Product Line Director and Project Manager for this project are Eric Lewis and Hilda Canes Garduño, respectively. We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We would also be 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.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 566-0829 and/or copper.carolyn@epa.gov, or Eric Lewis at (202) 566-2664 and/or eric.lewis@epa.gov, if you or your staff have any questions.

cc: Nanci Gelb, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, OARM
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