



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE
INSPECTION REPORT TITLED
*U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S
HEALTH AND SAFETY AND WORKERS'
COMPENSATION PROGRAMS
(2015-CR-001)***




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Memorandum

SEP 30 2019

To: Tonya Johnson
Deputy Chief Financial Officer
Director Office of Financial Management

From: Nicki Miller 
Regional Manager, Eastern Region

Subject: Verification Review – Recommendations for the Inspection Report Titled *U.S. Department of the Interior's Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation Programs* (2015-CR-001)
Report No. 2019-ER-054

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) has completed a verification review of two closed recommendations from our inspection report titled, *U.S. Department of the Interior's Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation Programs*. Our objective for this review was to determine whether the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) had implemented recommendations 6 and 8 as reported to the Office of Financial Management (PFM), Office of Policy, Management and Budget. We concurred with the closure of these recommendations.

Background

Our inspection report titled, *U.S. Department of the Interior's Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation Programs*, dated February 9, 2016, made 8 recommendations designed to help the DOI and its offices strengthen the management and oversight of the DOI's Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation Programs.

The DOI responded to the inspection report's recommendations in a memorandum dated December 21, 2015, and concurred with recommendations 1, 5, 6, and 8, and partially concurred with recommendations 3, 4, and 7. The DOI did not concur with recommendation 2. On February 26, 2016, we referred all eight recommendations to the PFM to track resolution and implementation. As of April 16, 2018, the PFM reported recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 as closed. In a previous verification review, we concluded that these six recommendations had been closed.

On February 20, 2019, the PFM reported to us that recommendation 6 had been closed. On April 30, 2019, the PFM reported to us that recommendation 8 had been closed.

Scope and Methodology

We limited the scope of this review to determine whether the DOI and its bureaus implemented recommendations 6 and 8 as reported to the PFM. To accomplish our objective, we reviewed official correspondence and documentation related to the actions that the DOI and its bureaus have taken to implement each recommendation. We did not perform internal control testing, conduct site visits, or perform fieldwork to determine whether the DOI and its bureaus corrected the underlying deficiencies initially identified during the inspection. As a result, we did not conduct this review in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States or the Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Results of Review

We found that the DOI had implemented recommendations 6 and 8 as reported to the PFM.

Recommendation 6: Ensure that key safety documents, including policy updates and evaluation reports, are reviewed and disseminated in a timely manner.

Actions Taken: To implement the recommendation, the Office of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) developed a spreadsheet to track the status of policy updates and evaluation reports to ensure that key safety documents are reviewed and disseminated in a timely manner.

Recommendation 8: Define roles and responsibilities to ensure that all of the units within the Office of the Secretary have a safety and health program.

Actions Taken: To implement the recommendation, the Office of Facilities and Administration Services (OFAS) hired a full-time safety and occupational health manager responsible for the development, implementation, and management of a health and safety program for the Office of the Secretary. In addition, the OFAS established the Collateral Duty Safety Officer (CDSO) program, which requires the selection of CDSO representatives to oversee and execute safety and health processes into organizational operations for their respective offices. The CDSO representatives are also responsible for training, inspections, and accident reporting.

Conclusion

We conclude that recommendations 6 and 8 are resolved, implemented, and closed. We informed DOI officials of the results of this review on September 25, 2019.

We would like to thank the OFAS, the OSH, and the PFM for providing the requested information during our review. If you have any questions about this verification review, please contact me at 202-208-5745.

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