



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

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

February 23, 2021

Rob Fairweather
Acting Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Fairweather:

Pursuant to our role under the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Inspector General reviewed the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's compliance in fiscal year 2020 with improper payments legislation and guidance. This evaluation was conducted under the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, published in January 2012. These standards required that we perform the evaluation to obtain sufficient, competent, and relevant evidence to provide a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions based on our objectives. We believe that the evidence obtained provides a reasonable basis for our findings and conclusions. We found that the CSB was fully compliant with improper payments legislation and guidance during fiscal year 2020.

In November 2020, we initiated our evaluation and found that the Office of Management and Budget had not identified any high-priority programs within the CSB. In addition, the CSB had not noted any programs that were susceptible to significant improper payments. The CSB made approximately \$8.9 million in payments during the fiscal year that were subject to improper payments requirements and reported improper payments totaling approximately \$4,400. As a result, we needed to evaluate the CSB's compliance with only two of the six criteria outlined in the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019.

Specifically, we sought to determine whether the CSB had addressed the following two criteria:

1. The agency has published improper payments information with the annual financial statement of the agency for the most recent fiscal year and has posted the annual financial statement and accompanying materials required under the guidance of the OMB on the agency website.
2. The agency conducted improper payment risk assessments for each program with annual outlays greater than \$10,000,000 at least once in the last three years.

To determine compliance with the first criterion, we reviewed the CSB's fiscal year 2020 Performance and Accountability Report, which included improper payments information in its annual financial statement, and the CSB's website and homepage. On November 15, 2020, we determined that the CSB published its fiscal year 2020 Performance and Accountability Report on its website and posted the report on its homepage, thus meeting this criterion.

To determine the CSB's compliance with the second criterion, we reviewed the CSB's risk assessment, *Audit of CSB's Compliance with Improper Payments Legislation - CSB Review of Programs & Activities Susceptible to Significant Improper Payments*, which we received from the CSB on November 19, 2020. While the CSB was required to conduct only one risk assessment within the last three years, the CSB proactively conducted such an assessment annually. The CSB determined that it did not meet the \$10 million threshold for significant improper payments reporting. The CSB additionally noted that recent audits and reviews of CSB activities had not identified significant improper payment concerns.

The CSB reviewed our draft analysis and had no comments.

We will post this letter to our website at www.epa.gov/oig.

Sincerely,



Sean W. O'Donnell