

Office of Inspector General

May 11, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Victoria A. Lipnic Acting Chair

FROM: Milton A. Mayo, Jr. Inspector General

SUBJECT: Transmittal of U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's FY 2016 Compliance with the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA), as amended by the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act P.L. 111-204 (IPERA), and the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act P.L. 112-248 (IPERIA) (OIG Report No. 2017-04-AOIG)

Attached is the Office of Inspector General's Memorandum on the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's Compliance with IPERIA for FY 2016.

Our review determined that EEOC has complied with the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA), as amended by the IPERIA.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact LaTesha Goode, Auditor, 202-663-4344.

cc:

Germaine Roseboro, Chief Financial Officer

Raj Mohan, Director of Finance and Systems Services Division

Cynthia Pierre, Chief Operating Officer

Mona Papillon, Deputy Chief Operating Officer

Jim Paretti, Chief of Staff & Senior Counsel to Acting Chair Lipnic

U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

Office of Inspector General

FY'16 Agency Compliance with Improper Payment Legislation

2017-04-AOIG



Office of Inspector General

May 11, 2017

MEMORANDUM

TO: Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs United States Senate 340 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

> Committee on Oversight and Government Reform United States House of Representatives 2157 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

> Honorable Victoria A. Lipnic, Acting Chair U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission 131 M St. NE Washington, DC 20507

Beryl H. Davis Director, Financial Management and Assurance U.S. Government Accountability Office 441 G Street, NW, Room 5490 Washington, DC 20548

Mark Reger Deputy Controller, Office of Federal Financial Management Office of Management and Budget 725 17th Street, NW Washington, DC 20503

FROM: Milton A. Mayo, Jr. Philto Anarg **Inspector General**

SUBJECT: U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's FY 2016 Compliance with the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA), as amended by the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act P.L. 111-204 (IPERA), and the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Improvement Act P.L. 112-248 (IPERIA)



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The IPERIA¹ requires agencies and entities, such as the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), with improper payment estimates that do not meet the statutory thresholds to report an estimate of the annual amount and rate of improper payments, as well as reduction targets in their annual Agency Financial Reports (AFRs) or Performance and Accountability Reports (PARs) per M-15-02 Part IA 9 Step 4c (page 16). These agencies also are required to conduct a risk assessment to identify programs/activities that may be susceptible to significant improper payments. If an agency determines that it is not at high risk for significant improper payments, then risk assessments are required every 3 years. If no programs are at risk for significant improper payments, the other requirements on annual reduction targets, corrective action plans, etc. are not applicable. Additionally, small agencies should have a payment recapture program in place.

Based on our findings, we determined the agency has complied with the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA), as amended by IPERIA. To satisfy our reporting requirements², we communicated with the agency's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) to determine whether a risk assessment was conducted to identify programs/activities in the agency that may be susceptible to significant improper payments and whether the agency has a payment recapture program in place. The CFO indicated that the agency conducted an agency-wide risk assessment via a statistical sampling of vendor and travel payments in FY 2016. Additionally, the agency relied on the results of the FY 2016 financial statement audit, which did not uncover duplicate/improper payments, and agency internal controls in place relating to payments. The CFO concluded that the agency is not at risk for significant improper payments and determined that there were no significant improper payments made during FY 2016. The agency plans to continue performing in house-risk assessments. As a result of the CFO's response, the requirement for annual reduction targets, corrective action plans, etc., is not applicable. Additionally, in regard to having a payment recapture program in place, the CFO indicated that if any improper payments arise in the future, the agency will establish an accounts receivable and follow the procedure of collection. The agency has a process in place to refer all valid debts for collection through the U.S. Department of Treasury's FedDebt system.

Further, both the FY 2016 Financial Statement Audit and the agency's Performance and Accountability Report (PAR) are posted on the agency's website.

¹ The IPERIA, which was signed into law on January 10, 2013, amends the Improper Payments Elimination and Recovery Act (IPERA; P.L.111-204) of 2010 and the Improper Payments Information Act (IPIA; P.L. 107-300) of 2002, and directed the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to issue implementing guidance to agencies. On October 20, 2014, OMB issued revised government-wide implementation guidance, OMB Memorandum, M-15-02, Appendix C to Circular A-123 *Requirements for Effective Estimation and Remediation of Improper Payments*.

² OMB Memorandum 15-02 Appendix C to Circular A-123, *Requirements for Effective Estimation and Remediation of Improper Payments* states that Inspectors General should review the agency's AFR or PAR (and any accompanying information) for the most recent fiscal year to determine compliance under IPERA. There are six requirements that an agency must meet to be in compliance with the IPIA. Among these are that agencies must publish an AFR or PAR and conduct program specific risk assessments if required.



Office of Inspector General

If there are any questions regarding our review and determinations please contact LaTesha L. Goode, Auditor, she may be reached at (202) 663-4344 or by email at <u>latesha.goode@eeoc.gov</u>.

cc:

Germaine Roseboro, Chief Financial Officer Raj Mohan, Director of Finance and Systems Services Division Cynthia Pierre, Chief Operating Officer Mona Papillon, Deputy Chief Operating Officer Jim Parette, Chief of Staff & Senior Counsel to Acting Chair Lipnic