

Summary: OSMRE Employee Attempted to Send PII to Personal Computer

Report Date: January 8, 2018

OIG investigated an allegation that an employee with the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE) attempted to send a spreadsheet containing personally identifiable information (PII) for over 180 DOI employees to his personal email account.

We found that the employee made repeated attempts to send the spreadsheet from his Government email account to his personal account, in violation of the DOI's employee policy on network use. We confirmed, however, that the DOI's IT security systems blocked the emails and prevented the PII from being transmitted to his personal account or computer. The employee's supervisor confiscated the employee's work computer the day he learned of the attempts to email the spreadsheet and placed the employee on administrative leave.

When we first interviewed the employee, he denied trying to send the spreadsheet containing PII to his personal email, but during a later interview he admitted that he had. He also told us that he tried to send the spreadsheet because he liked to save and organize files on his home computer and not for illegal or inappropriate purposes. In addition, we found that he had attempted to send the PII knowing that his home computer had a software program installed on it that allowed for outside access. Finally, we learned that the employee had been disciplined in the past for lack of candor.

We referred this case to the U.S. Attorney's Office, Washington, DC, which declined to prosecute.

This is a summary of an investigative report that we issued to the Acting OSMRE Director.

