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Source of document: FOIA Officer
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OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

VIA EMAIL

March 11, 2025

Re: DOI-OIG-2025-000121

This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated February 10, 2025, which was received by the Office of Inspector General (OIG) on February 11, 2025. You requested the following information under the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552:

“a list of the Dept of Interior Office of Inspector General INVESTIGATIONS closed during calendar years 2023 and 2024. The records should include information for each investigation, specifically the case number, the subject of the investigation, the category of the investigation, the open date, and the closing date.”

We do not bill requesters for FOIA processing fees when their fees are less than \$50.00, because the cost of collection would be greater than the fee collected. See 43 C.F.R. § 2.49(a)(1). Therefore, there is no billable fee for the processing of this request.

We obtained the documents you seek and conducted a review of the material you requested. After reviewing this information, we have determined that we may release two pages of responsive documents with FOIA redactions, pursuant to exemption 5 U.S.C. § 552 (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C).

FOIA requires that agencies generally disclose records. Agencies may only withhold requested records only if one or more of nine exemptions apply.

Exemption 6 permits the withholding of information contained in “personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). The term “similar files” encompasses any government record that contains a particular individual; the term is not limited to records contained in personnel or medical files.

Exemption 6 requires weighing the privacy interests in nondisclosure against the public interest in the release of the records. For a privacy interest to exist, the information must be such that there is a substantial probability that a disclosure will cause an interference with personal privacy and that disclosure could subject the individuals to unwanted intrusions. The individuals named in your FOIA request could suffer the harms contemplated under FOIA Exemption 6 if released, consequently, we find a privacy interest exists in this case. However, even if a privacy

interest exists in certain information, we must disclose the information if the privacy interest is outweighed by a significant public interest. The test for determining whether a public interest sufficient to justify release of the requested information exists is whether disclosure of the information would shed light on an agency's performance of its statutory duties. You have not demonstrated how disclosure of the responsive material would reveal how OIG functions, as a result, we find that you have not provided sufficient information to demonstrate that the personal information at issue would inform the public in any meaningful way about the workings of the government. Therefore, you have not established that the public interest in this case outweighs any privacy interests and we must withhold this information under FOIA Exemption 6.

Exemption 7 allows agencies to refuse to disclose records compiled for law enforcement purposes under any one of six circumstances (identified as exemptions 7 (A) through 7 (F)). Law enforcement within the meaning of Exemption 7 includes enforcement pursuant to both civil and criminal statutes.

Specifically, Exemption 7(C) permits an agency to withhold information contained in files compiled for law enforcement purposes if production "could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(C). Thus, the purpose of Exemption 7(C) is to protect the privacy of an individual if one exists. To determine this, we must evaluate not only the nature of the personal information found in the records, but also whether release of that information to the general public could affect that individual adversely. In this case, we find that release of personal information could reasonably be expected to have a negative impact on an individual's privacy. However, even if a privacy interest exists, we must nevertheless disclose the requested information if the public interest outweighs the privacy interest in the information requested. In this instance, you have not established that release of the privacy information of witnesses, interviewee, middle and low-ranking federal employees and investigators, and other individuals name in the investigatory file, would shed light on government operations, and we have not found such a public interest in this case. For this reason, after reviewing the information in question, we have determined that disclosure would be an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, and we must withhold this information under FOIA Exemption 7(C).

As amended in 2016, the Freedom of Information Act provides that a federal agency or department (hereinafter "agency") may withhold responsive records only if: (1) the agency reasonably foresees that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one of the nine exemptions that FOIA enumerates; or (2) disclosure is prohibited by law. 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(8)(A)(i). We reasonably foresee that disclosure would harm an interest protected by one or more of the nine exemptions to the FOIA's general rule of disclosure.

If you disagree with this response, you may appeal this response to the OIG's FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal **no later than 90 workdays** from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service,

fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must include an explanation of why you believe the OIG's response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and the OIG concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and the OIG's response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and the OIG will result in the OIG's rejection of your appeal, unless the OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal. The OIG FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information is the following:

Office of the Inspector General
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
MS-4428
Washington, DC 20240
Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office

Telephone: (303) 236-9161
Email: oig_foiaappeals@doioig.gov

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of FOIA. *See* [5 U.S.C. 552\(c\)](#). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

The 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001

E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Please note that using OGIS services does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the OIG's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer.

However, should you need to contact me, my email is foia@doioig.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Celeste Killens', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Celeste Killens
FOIA Analyst
Office of Inspector General
Department of the Interior

Department of the Interior ● Office of Inspector General
 Closed Cases Report Division: Office of Investigations
 Region: All Regions
 For the Period Between: 01/01/2023 and 12/31/2024

NUMBER	TITLE	REGION	OPENED	CLOSED
SIR 24-0738-I (OI-SI-23-0730-I)	ALLEGED MISUSE OF POSITION, OFFICE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND SECURITY	SIR	8/10/2023	10/15/2024
EIU 24-0033-I (O-OG-20-0425-I)	False Statements and Unauthorized Bypass of Safety Devices, BSEE	EIU	4/6/2020	9/24/2024
WR SAC 24-0342-I	Proactive IIA Red Flag Investigation into GE Forestry, Inc. - DOI, OR	WR - SAC	5/31/2024	10/11/2024
WR SAC-24-0053-I (CI-CA-20-0414-I)	ALLEGED NONPAYMENT OF SUBCONTRACTORS - GOVERNMENT WIDE	WR - SAC	3/26/2020	11/19/2024
SIR 24-0389-I (OI-SI-24-0365-I)	ALLEGED TIMESHEET FRAUD, USPP	SIR	3/5/2024	7/3/2024
SIR 24-0042-I (OI-SI-24-0191-I)	ALLEGATION OF DISCRIMINATION AND HIRING PRACTICE VIOLATIONS, BOEM	SIR	12/12/2023	4/3/2024
RMR LAK 24-0095-I (OI-CO-21-0119-I)	ALLEGED MISUSE OF CARES ACT FUNDS	RMR - LAK	11/13/2020	12/20/2024
RMR BIL 24-0075-I (O-MT-23-0813-I)	SUSPECTED MISSPENDING OF IIA TRIBAL WATER SETTLEMENT FUNDS, BIA	RMR - BIL	8/31/2023	12/2/2024
RMR BIL 24-0072-I (O-MT-23-0800-I)	ALLEGED THEFT OF IIA/BIL FUNDS, TRIBE, BIA	RMR - BIL	8/29/2023	9/26/2024
RMR BIL 24-0067-I (O-MT-23-0474-I)	ALLEGED IIM FRAUD, BTFA	RMR - BIL	4/27/2023	11/22/2024
RMR BIL 24-0062-I (O-MT-23-0014-I)	ALLEGED THEFT OF TRIBAL FUNDS, BIA	RMR - BIL	10/3/2022	11/22/2024
IIA 25-0036-I	ALLEGED MISMANAGEMENT/FRAUD, USBR	IIA	10/4/2024	1/8/2025
IIA 24-0032-I (OI-VA-23-0846-I)	ALLEGED CONFLICT OF INTEREST	IIA	9/13/2023	8/28/2024
ER HRN 24-0440-I	Orphaned Wells, Illinois Department of Natural Resources	ER - HRN	7/3/2024	1/27/2025
ER HRN 24-0387-I	IIA procurement investigation of prior violator	ER - HRN	6/17/2024	10/11/2024
ER HRN-24-0034-I (OI-VA-24-0117-I)	ALLEGED FINANCIAL CRIMES, NPS	ER - HRN	11/7/2023	12/23/2024
ER HRN-24-0008-I (Q-VA-21-0228-I)	ALLEGED THEFT OF CARES ACT FUNDS, BIA	ER - HRN	1/5/2021	10/11/2024
ER HRN-24-0003-I (Q-VA-23-0406-I)	ALLEGED MISCONDUCT AND MISMANAGEMENT, USGS	ER - HRN	3/30/2023	7/2/2024
ER ATL 24-0267-I	POTENTIAL MISUSE OF PURCHASE CARD, DOI WIDE	ER - ATL	5/10/2024	10/11/2024
EIU 24-0280-I	Alleged Tribal Funds Fraud (Mineral Royalties), BIA	EIU	5/15/2024	12/5/2024
EIU 24-0028-I (OI-OG-20-0532-I)	Alleged Failure to Pay Royalties on Helium - DCP Midstream - BLM, KS	EIU	6/1/2020	1/31/2025
WR SAC 24-0271-I	Alleged Cash/Inmate Award Program Fraud, BOR	WR - SAC	5/14/2024	11/19/2024
WR SAC-24-0114-I (OI-CA-24-0268-I)	IMPERSONATION OF A GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE AND REQUESTING BID INFORMATION, BIE	WR - SAC	1/29/2024	12/20/2024
WR ANC 240112-I (OI-AK-24-0160-I)	ALLEGED PROCUREMENT INTEGRITY ACT VIOLATIONS, OAS	WR - ANC	11/27/2023	12/6/2024
RMR BIL 24-0097-I (Q-MT-22-0597-I)	ALLEGED GOVERNMENT CHECK FRAUD - BLM	RMR - BIL	5/13/2022	10/7/2024
IIA 24-0037-I (OI-VA-24-0053-I)	POTENTIAL OVERBILLING ON LOUISIANA ORPHANED WELL REMEDIATION USEWS, LA	IIA	red in CMS 10/13/	6/5/2024
ER ATL 24-0383-I	ALLEGED AMER PROGRAM SUBGRANT FRAUD, OSMRE	ER - ATL	6/14/2024	9/24/2024
EIU 24-0093-I (Q-OG-23-0483-I)	Alleged Failure to Pay Royalties, ONRR	EIU	5/1/2023	10/23/2024
EIU 24-0066-I (OI-OG-23-0311-I)	Alleged Failure to Report Production/Pay Royalties, ONRR	EIU	2/15/2023	9/25/2024
ER-HRN 24-0006-I (OI-VA-20-0075-I)	WV NONPROFIT COMMITTED GRANT FRAUD, NPS	ER - HRN	10/29/2019	12/31/2024
SIR 24-0736-R	VERTING OF THE RADIO AND TELECOM SYSTEM - NPS USPP, DC	SIR	9/25/2024	10/22/2024
Q-CA 22-0318-I	MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT FLEET FUEL CARDS AND GOV - BIA, WA	WR - SAC	2/3/2022	03/20/2024
Q-CA 22-0390-I	ALLEGED FALSE CLAIMS AND FORGERY BY SCHOOL BOARD - BIE	WR - SAC	3/11/2022	03/06/2024
Q-CA 22-0609-I	THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SHOULD CLARIFY OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILITIES FOR CHILD CARE CENTERS OPERATING IN NATIONAL PARKS	WR - SAC	5/26/2022	04/30/2024
Q-CO-18-1084-I	ALLEGED MISUSE OF A GOVERNMENT CREDIT CARD, BIA, CO	RMR - LAK	9/11/2018	03/20/2024
Q-CO-18-0135-I	ALLEGED FALSE CLAIMS, NPS	RMR - LAK	12/7/2018	03/20/2024
Q-CO-20-0102-I	ALLEGED PURCHASE CARD FRAUD, FWS	RMR - LAK	11/15/2019	08/20/2024
Q-CO-20-0250-I	ALLEGED CONTRACT FRAUD, NONPAYMENT - NPS	RMR - LAK	2/7/2020	06/25/2024
Q-CO-21-0153-I	ALLEGED FRAUDULENT CHARGES ON GOVERNMENT TRAVEL CARD, FWS, IX	RMR - LAK	12/4/2020	08/20/2024
Q-CO-22-0895-I	ALLEGED SPOOFING, BIE	RMR - LAK	9/1/2022	06/25/2024
OI-GA 19-0411-I	ALLEGED ID THEFT AND GCC FRAUD, DOI WIDE	ER - ATL	4/11/2019	04/30/2024
OI-GA 19-0526-I	THEFT AND PUBLIC CORRUPTION, NPS, PR	ER - ATL	5/20/2019	04/30/2024
OI-GA 20-0130-I	FALSE CLAIMS ACT VIOLATIONS BY GOVERNMENT CONTRACTOR, DOI, MI	ER - ATL	11/26/2019	04/30/2024
OI-GA 22-0157-I	ALLEGED GRANT FRAUD, USFWS	ER - ATL	12/17/2021	04/30/2024
OI-GA 22-0328-I	ALLEGED SUSPICIOUS UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE CLAIM - NPS, MS	ER - ATL	2/11/2022	07/16/2024
Q-MT 20-0569-I	ALLEGED CONTRACT FRAUD, DOI WIDE, ND	RMR - BIL	6/26/2020	07/17/2024
Q-MT 22-0079-I	ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN GRAVES PROTECTION AND REPATRIATION ACT, NPS	RMR - BIL	11/3/2021	03/20/2024
OI-NM 16-0702-I	BORREGOPASS GRANT SCHOOL	RMR - ABQ	11/30/2016	03/06/2024
OI-NM 17-0217-I	WHITE HORSE LAKE CHAPTER HOUSE EMBEZZLEMENT	RMR - ABQ	2/20/2017	07/17/2024
Q-NM 18-0361-I	ALLEGED OVERSPENDING OF TRAVEL MONEY, BIE, ALAMO, NM	RMR - ABQ	1/24/2018	08/06/2024
OI-NM 22-0977-I	ALLEGED SEXUAL ASSAULT, BLM	RMR - ABQ	10/20/2022	04/17/2024

Q-NM-23-0377-I	UNAUTHORIZED USE OF PURCHASE CARD, BIE, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	RMR - ABQ	4/13/2023	03/06/2024
QI-OG-13-0219-I	XTO TRANSPORTATION DEDUCTIONS, ENTERPRISE/WILLIAMS GAS SYSTEMS	EIU	3/26/2013	04/09/2024
Q-OG-15-0008-I	HIGH PLAINS GAS, LLC	EIU	10/17/2014	03/06/2024
Q-OG-17-0511-I	FALSE REPORTING OF REQUIRED INSPECTIONS - FIELDWOOD ENERGY	EIU	4/13/2017	05/22/2024
Q-OG-18-0490-I	SAFETY SYSTEM BYPASS CAUSES POLLUTION EVENT IN THE GULF OF MEXICO	EIU	3/8/2018	09/26/2024
Q-OG-19-0332-I	ALLEGATIONS OF FIELDWOOD MISLEADING BSEE INSPECTORS - WEST DELTA 68	EIU	3/15/2019	09/10/2024
Q-OG-19-0821-I	ALLEGED FALSE DOCUMENTS - SITE CLEARANCE (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	EIU	8/30/2019	05/22/2024
Q-OG-19-0893-I	ALLEGED FALSE STATEMENTS, ONRR, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	EIU	10/4/2019	09/10/2024
Q-OG-20-0545-I	QUI TAM - GAS STORAGE AGREEMENT FRAUD SCHEME, ONRR, CO	EIU	6/5/2020	08/27/2024
Q-OG-21-0169-I	ALLEGED OIL AND GAS LEASE FRAUD - BSEE, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	EIU	12/17/2020	04/17/2024
Q-OG-21-0659-I	FAILURE TO PAY ROYALTIES, ONRR, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	EIU	6/21/2021	04/30/2024
Q-OG-21-0766-I	FAILURE TO REPORT PLANT FUEL AND UNBUNDLE PROCESSING COSTS, ONRR	EIU	7/28/2021	08/06/2024
Q-OG-22-0530-I	POTENTIAL METER TAMPERING AND FALSE STATEMENTS, BSEE, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	EIU	5/5/2022	03/18/2024
Q-PI-17-0819-I	BIE, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C) ALLEGEDLY INFLATED GIFTED PROGRAM ENROLLMENT AND STUDENT ATTENDANCE NUMBERS	SIR	8/11/2017	03/18/2024
Q-PI-20-0393-I	ALLEGED ETHICS AND LOBBYING DISCLOSURE ACT VIOLATIONS - SECRETARY BERNHARDT, DC	SIR	3/20/2020	07/30/2024
Q-PI-20-0493-I	ALLEGED ETHICS RECUSAL AND PROHIBITED HOLDINGS WAIVER VIOLATION BY FORMER OFFICE OF HEARING AND APPEALS ADMINISTRATIVE J	SIR	5/7/2020	09/25/2024
QI-SI-22-0932-I	ALLEGED ETHICS VIOLATIONS, DOI, DC	SIR	9/30/2022	10/22/2024
QI-SI-23-0282-I	ALLEGED ETHICS VIOLATIONS, BLM, DC	SIR	3/10/2023	01/06/2025
QI-SI-23-0713-I	ALLEGED IMPROPER PURCHASE OF STOCKS ON DOI'S PROHIBITED HOLDINGS LIST, DOI, DC	SIR	8/8/2023	11/27/2024
Q-VA-19-0566-I	ALLEGED GRANT FRAUD, OSMRE, WV	ER - HRN	5/30/2019	05/28/2024
QI-VA-20-0110-I	ALLEGED PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT BY AN OSMRE STATE GRANT RECIPIENT	ER - HRN	12/5/2019	03/06/2024
QI-VA-21-0618-I	MISUSE OF GOVERNMENT VEHICLE FOR OFF-DUTY EMPLOYMENT, USPP, DC	ER - HRN	6/11/2021	03/18/2024
QI-VA-24-0103-I	ALLEGED FALSE STATEMENTS, EAC, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	ER - HRN	11/2/2023	05/07/2024
Q-VA-24-0115-I	ALLEGED GRANT MISMANAGEMENT, OSMRE, (b) (6), (b) (7)(C)	ER - HRN	11/20/2023	04/17/2024
QI-SI-21-0171-W	VIOLATION OF THE RADIO AND TELECOM SYSTEM - NPS USPP, DC	SIR	12/3/2020	11/22/2024
QI-SI-21-0286-W	REVIEW OF THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR'S ACTIONS RELATED TO JANUARY 6, 2021	SIR	1/28/2021	11/12/2024