



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

JUL 29 2011

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: ORD Final Response to OIG Report No. 11-P-0386, *Office of Research and Development Should Increase Awareness of Scientific Integrity Policies*, July 22, 2011

TO: Paul Anastas, Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development

We have reviewed your July 7, 2011, response to the subject report. Your response stated that you agree with the OIG's recommendations as currently proposed:

1. Periodically test the effectiveness of controls to address scientific integrity and research misconduct.
2. Work with Agency offices to:
 - a. Initiate proactive outreach on EPA Order 3120.5 to raise awareness of roles/responsibilities and reporting steps.
 - b. Identify staff and managers outside of ORD who should complete mandatory Principles of Scientific Integrity E-Training.
3. Continue working with the unions to update and implement the Principles of Scientific Integrity E-Training. Changes to the course should include:
 - a. Making the e-training mandatory for all ORD staff.
 - b. Ensuring that the updated course contains real-life examples.
 - c. Creating a system for linking to current contact information for reporting instances of scientific integrity and research misconduct.

Your response also stated that ORD has already begun addressing these recommendations, and is taking additional steps to enhance scientific integrity at the Agency. Specifically, ORD has committed to implementing and evaluating a new risk assessment protocol, developing a new Agency-wide policy on scientific integrity, identifying appropriate staff who should complete the mandatory Principles of Scientific Integrity E-Training, and continuing the efforts with the unions to standardize, update, and implement the Principles of Scientific Integrity E-Training. After reviewing ORD's corrective actions and planned completion dates, we find that they address the recommendations, and we are closing the report.

If you or your staff have questions about submitting your revised final response, please contact Melissa Heist, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, at (202) 566-0899 or heist.melissa@epa.gov; or Patrick Gilbride, Director, Risk Assessment and Program Performance Audits, at (303) 312-6969 or gilbride.patrick@epa.gov.



Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.

cc: Norman Adkins, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Research and Development
Deborah Heckman, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Research and Development
Barbara Bennett, Agency Follow-up Official