

Dickerson, Aaron

Subject: OIG Notification Memo
Location: 3402 WJC-N

Start: Thu 10/3/2019 4:30 PM
End: Thu 10/3/2019 5:00 PM

Recurrence: (none)

Meeting Status: Meeting organizer

Organizer: Jackson, Ryan
Required Attendees: Jackson, Ryan; Bennett, Angela
Optional Attendees: Trefry, John; Christensen, Kevin; Bartlett, Rashmi; Wong, Lela; Choi, Joon

Dickerson, Aaron

m: Bennett, Angela
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 12:39 PM
To: Dickerson, Aaron
Subject: FW: OIG Notification Memo - Response to Congressional Request Over Concerns with EPA Access to Witness Testimony Prior to Hearing

Hi Aaron,

As discussed below in my email communications below with Ryan Jackson, I am trying to set up a meeting regarding the subject audit. Since Kevin DeBell is out today, Ryan said I could contact you to set up a meeting for next week. Would you please assist me in doing so. Please check his availability and let me know what works.

Thanks,

Angela

From: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 12:22 PM
To: Bennett, Angela <Bennett.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: OIG Notification Memo - Response to Congressional Request Over Concerns with EPA Access to Witness Testimony Prior to Hearing

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Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 12:21 PM
To: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: OIG Notification Memo - Response to Congressional Request Over Concerns with EPA Access to Witness Testimony Prior to Hearing

Is that Sharnett Willis or Aaron Dickerson?

From: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
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Subject: Re: OIG Notification Memo - Response to Congressional Request Over Concerns with EPA Access to Witness Testimony Prior to Hearing

Alright. Kevin is out today, I believe. But please work with either Sharnett or Aaron. At this point, I cannot meet this week. I can meet sometime next week.

Ryan Jackson
Chief of Staff
U.S. EPA
202-564-6999

On Sep 23, 2019, at 10:33 AM, Bennett, Angela <Bennett.Angela@epa.gov> wrote:

Good Morning Ryan,

I have been working with Kevin to get this meeting scheduled. His out of office message says he is out today. My management is pressuring me to get the meeting scheduled and would like a response today. Would you please check your calendar for availability this week. The meeting should be very brief.

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To: Bennett, Angela <Bennett.Angela@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: OIG Notification Memo - Response to Congressional Request Over Concerns with EPA Access to Witness Testimony Prior to Hearing

Hi Angela:

Thanks for the email. I am actively working to get this on Ryan's calendar. I will do my best to make this happen.

Best,
Kevin

From: Bennett, Angela <Bennett.Angela@epa.gov>
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Subject: RE: OIG Notification Memo - Response to Congressional Request Over Concerns with EPA Access to Witness Testimony Prior to Hearing

Hi Kevin,

Is Ryan available next week to met with us? We need to get something scheduled.

Angela

From: Bennett, Angela
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To: DeBell, Kevin <debell.kevin@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: OIG Notification Memo - Response to Congressional Request Over Concerns with EPA Access to Witness Testimony Prior to Hearing

Hi Kevin,

Since I have not heard back from you, I assume the proposed days/times did not work and we are not on Ryan's calendar this week?

Angela

From: Bennett, Angela
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To: DeBell, Kevin <debell.kevin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: OIG Notification Memo - Response to Congressional Request Over Concerns with EPA Access to Witness Testimony Prior to Hearing

Hi Kevin,

Sorry for the delayed response, I was in training last week. We would be available to meet Wednesday the 18th, anytime between 9:00-11:00 or 1:00-2:00. We are also available this Thursday the 19th, 8:30-9:30. It should be a short meeting.

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From: DeBell, Kevin <debell.kevin@epa.gov>
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Hi Angela:

If you provide me with a few one-hour windows before the end of the month that are convenient for you, I will work to get this on Ryan's calendar. Thanks very much.

Best,
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From: Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>
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Subject: RE: OIG Notification Memo - Response to Congressional Request Over Concerns with EPA Access to Witness Testimony Prior to Hearing

When would you like to talk to me about this? I'm eager.

From: Bennett, Angela <Bennett.Angela@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 9:18 AM

To: Darwin, Henry <darwin.henry@epa.gov>

Cc: Benevento, Douglas <benevento.douglas@epa.gov>; Jackson, Ryan <jackson.ryan@epa.gov>; Molina, Michael <molina.michael@epa.gov>; DeBell, Kevin <debell.kevin@epa.gov>; Schiermeyer, Corry <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>; Morant, Annette <Morant.Annette@epa.gov>; Leopold, Matt (OGC) <Leopold.Matt@epa.gov>; Fotouhi, David <Fotouhi.David@epa.gov>; Fugh, Justina <Fugh.Justina@epa.gov>; Benton, Michael <benton.michael@epa.gov>; Willey, Katharine <willey.katharine@epa.gov>; Regional AFC List <Regional_AFC_List@epa.gov>; Sheehan, Charles <Sheehan.Charles@epa.gov>; Shields, Edward <Shields.Ed@epa.gov>; Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>; Christensen, Kevin <Christensen.Kevin@epa.gov>; Wong, Helina <wong.helina@epa.gov>; Wright, Stephanie L. <Wright.Stephanie@epa.gov>; Eyermann, Richard <Eyermann.Richard@epa.gov>; El-Zoghbi, Christine <El-Zoghbi.Christine@epa.gov>; Bartlett, Rashmi <bartlett.rekha@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lister, Jan <Lister.Jan@epa.gov>; Pastuck, Margaux <pastuck.margaux@epa.gov>

Subject: OIG Notification Memo - Response to Congressional Request Over Concerns with EPA Access to Witness Testimony Prior to Hearing

Mr. Darwin,

Attached is the notification memo announcing our audit based on a request by Congress regarding concerns with EPA access to witness testimony prior to a House Committee on Science, Space and Technology hearing on May 23, 2017. This is the formal notification to the email notification sent on August 7, 2019. On August 22, 2019, we met with representatives from your office and the Ethics Office to discuss our objectives and address concerns.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or my Director, John Trefry, at 202 566-2474 or by email at trefry.john@epa.gov.

Angela Bennett

Project Manager
US EPA – OIG
Office of Audits and Evaluations
Forensics Directorate
bennett.angela@epa.gov
404.562.9844 (w)
404.217.2045 (c)



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 29, 2019

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Response to Congressional Request Over Concerns with EPA Access to
Witness Testimony Prior to Hearing
Project No. OA&E-FY19-0313

FROM: John Trefry, Director, Forensic Directorate *John Trefry*
Office of Audit and Evaluation

TO: Henry Darwin, Acting Deputy Administrator
Office of the Administrator

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is initiating an evaluation based on a congressional request that expressed concerns that the EPA obtained advance access to testimony by an environmental science and policy expert before the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology on May 23, 2017. This project is based on an initial congressional request dated June 26, 2017, and subsequent follow-up requests.

Our objectives are to determine: (1) how a senior political appointee obtained a copy of the witness's testimony prior to the congressional hearing, and (2) whether employees in the Administrator's office received whistleblower training on federal prohibitions against interfering with or intimidating individuals who testify before Congress.

The project will be conducted using *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. The anticipated benefits of this project are to improve operational efficiency.

We will contact the audit coordinator to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss the objectives and scope of our project. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any questions you may have about the project process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the course of the project. Throughout the project, we will provide updates on a regular basis through a monthly meeting or via email, phone or video conference.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objectives. We will request that you resolve the situation if an agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested records to

the OIG or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG. We may report unresolved access matters to the Administrator and include the incident in the *Semiannual Report to Congress*.

I will supervise the project and the Project Manager will be Angela Bennett. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (202) 566-2474 or trcfry.john@epa.gov, or Angela Bennett at (404) 562-9844 or bennett.angela@epa.gov.

cc: Doug Benevento, Associate Deputy Administrator
Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff
Michael Molina, Deputy Chief of Staff
Kevin DeBell, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Corry Schiermeyer, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Annette Morant, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Matthew Leopold, General Counsel
David Fotouhi, Principal Deputy General Counsel
Justina Fugh, Senior Counsel for Ethics/Alternate Agency Ethics Official
Michael Benton, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of the Administrator
Katharine Willey, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of General Counsel
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10
Charles J. Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Edward Shields, Associate Deputy Inspector General
Eric Hanger, Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General
Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Helina Wong, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Stephanie Wright, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Management
Rich Eyermann, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Rashmi Bartlett, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General
Tia Elbaum, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General

From: [Jackson, Ryan](#)
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