



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

JAN 10 2018

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Pallone:

You wrote to me on December 19, 2017, requesting that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) extend the scope of our audit of travel by EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt, which previously was to cover the period through September 30, 2017. You asked that we extend our review through the end of calendar year 2017.

In determining whether the OIG can undertake requested work, initially we have to find that the matter is within our jurisdiction. Beyond that threshold question, we have to determine whether we have sufficient resources—people, time and funds—to do a project in a timely fashion, and whether it would preclude our doing other crucial work. The fact is that the OIG has been funded at less than the levels we deem adequate to do all of the work that should be done, and we therefore have to make difficult decisions about whether to accept any given potential undertaking. Many of our projects are statutorily mandated work, with Congress adding new mandates each session. Further, our annual work plan, which is also statutorily mandated, uses a risk-based analysis that identifies dozens of additional high-impact projects. All of this means that for every discretionary review that the OIG decides to undertake, there will be others we cannot.

Analyzing your request in light of these constraints, we will extend the period of our review through December 31, 2017. I have determined that, after this modification, we will not further expand or extend the scope of our review. Enclosed is an amended notification memorandum. Our objectives for this review will remain the same.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the OIG. Because Representatives Diana DeGette and Paul D. Tonko, along with you, requested an earlier expansion of this audit that was granted, similar letters are being sent to them. If you have any questions about this or any other matter, please contact Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General, at (202) 566-2391.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arthur A. Elkins Jr.", is positioned above the printed name.

Arthur A. Elkins Jr.

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Greg Walden, Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Scott Pruitt, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 10, 2018

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Amended Project Notification:
Audit of EPA's Adherence to Policies, Procedures and Oversight Controls
Pertaining to the Administrator's Travel
Project No. OA-FY17-0382

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Trefry", is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" line.

TO: David Bloom, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) previously amended its preliminary research pertaining to Administrator Scott Pruitt's travel through September 30, 2017. Based on additional congressional requests, the scope of our review is now expanded to include the Administrator's travel through December 31, 2017. Our objectives remain the same. Specifically, we seek to determine the following:

- The frequency, cost and extent of the Administrator's travel.
- Whether applicable EPA travel policies and procedures were followed for Administrator Pruitt's travel, as well as other EPA staff and security personnel traveling with or in advance of Administrator Pruitt.
- Whether EPA policies and procedures are sufficiently designed to prevent fraud, waste and abuse regarding the Administrator's travel.

To accomplish these objectives, we will review supporting documentation and conduct interviews with management and staff to determine whether the EPA followed applicable policies and procedures, and complied with federal requirements. The OIG plans to work with the EPA's Cincinnati Finance Center and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer to obtain needed information. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our work. The anticipated benefits of this project are to improve operational efficiency.

We will contact your audit coordinator to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our expanded scope. 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.