



U. S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION
WASHINGTON, DC 20416

September 15, 2008

The Honorable Gregory H. Friedman
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Subject: Report on the Quality Assessment Review of the Investigative Operations of the
Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Department of Energy

Dear Mr. Friedman:

We have reviewed the system of internal safeguards and management procedures for the investigative function of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in effect for the one-year period ending May 14, 2008. Our review was conducted in conformity with the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency (PCIE)/Executive Council on Integrity and Efficiency (ECIE) Quality Standards for Investigations, the Quality Assessment Review Guidelines established by the PCIE and ECIE, and the Attorney General's Guidelines for Offices of Inspector General with Statutory Law Enforcement Authority, as applicable.

In our opinion, the system of internal safeguards and management procedures for the investigative function of the DOE/OIG in effect for the period ending May 14, 2008, is in full compliance with the Quality Standards established by the PCIE/ECIE and the Attorney General Guidelines. These safeguards and procedures provide reasonable assurance that DOE/OIG is conforming with professional standards in the conduct of its investigations.

We reviewed the DOE/OIG's compliance with its system of internal policies and procedures. The review was conducted at the headquarters' office in Washington, DC, and the field office in Albuquerque, NM. Additionally, we sampled 30 case files for investigations closed during the previous 12-month period.

In performing our review, we considered the requirements of Section 6(e) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (as amended) and Section 812 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub.L. 107-296). These statutes authorize law enforcement powers for eligible personnel of each of the designated offices of presidentially appointed Inspectors General. Those powers may be exercised only for activities authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, other statutes, or as expressly authorized by the Attorney General.

Please thank your staff for their cooperation during the peer review and for being responsive to our requests. The professionalism shown by your staff in discussing and resolving issues enhanced the peer review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter McClintock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" being the most prominent.

Peter McClintock
Acting Inspector General

cc: The Honorable Michael Mukasey
U.S. Attorney General

The Honorable Patrick O'Carroll
Inspector General, Social Security Administration
Chairman, PCIE Investigations Committee