



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

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

SEP 13 2018

The Honorable Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Beyer:

You wrote to me on April 24, 2018, to present concerns regarding U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) official Albert Kelly, who has since left the agency. You noted various concerns about Mr. Kelly's qualifications and financial relationship with now former EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and whether Mr. Kelly's appointment followed appropriate procedures. In addition, you raised concerns regarding the EPA's controls for the Superfund program and recordkeeping. You asked that the EPA's Office of Inspector General investigate each of these concerns and several other related matters.

As Mr. Kelly and Mr. Pruitt are no longer with the EPA, we will not be reviewing the above concerns regarding Mr. Kelly's qualifications for an EPA job. We may address certain aspects of your request related to the Superfund Task Force as part of our audit announced in the September 7, 2018, notification memo that is attached. Our objective is to determine whether the EPA followed applicable criteria, such as laws and rules, in creating the Superfund Task Force, and the development of the Task Force's July 2017 report and recommendations. We will provide you with the results and any recommendations when the project is completed.

We appreciate your interest in the work of the Office of Inspector General. A similar letter is being sent to Representative Connolly. 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 blue ink, which appears to read "Arthur A. Elkins Jr.", is positioned above the printed name.

Arthur A. Elkins Jr.

Enclosure



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The Honorable Gerald E. Connolly  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

September 7, 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
Audit of EPA's Superfund Task Force Creation and Operation  
Project No. OA&E-FY18-0291

**FROM:** Tina Lovingood, Director /s/  
Land Cleanup and Waste Management Directorate  
Office of Audit and Evaluation

**TO:** Barry Breen, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Land and Emergency Management

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the creation and operation of the EPA's Superfund Task Force. This project is self-initiated.

During preliminary research, our objective is to determine whether the EPA followed applicable criteria, such as laws and rules, in creating the Superfund Task Force, and the development of the Task Force's July 2017 report and recommendations. The OIG plans to conduct work at the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, within the Office of Land and Emergency Management, and selected EPA regions. Applicable generally-accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefit of this project is enhanced use of appropriate public participation and transparent science in EPA's decision-making.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your questions 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 monthly email updates to an agreed-upon point of contact.

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 Steve Hanna. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (202) 566-2906 or [lovingood.tina@epa.gov](mailto:lovingood.tina@epa.gov), or Steve Hanna at (415) 947-4527 or [hanna.steve@epa.gov](mailto:hanna.steve@epa.gov).

cc: Henry Darwin, Acting Deputy Administrator  
Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff  
Michael Molina, Special Advisor, Office of the Administrator  
Bob Trent, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator  
Nancy Grantham, Principal Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs  
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10  
Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General  
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General  
Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General  
Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation  
Allan Williams, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Investigations  
Edward Shields, Assistant Inspector General for Management  
Richard Eyer mann, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation  
Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation  
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant 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