

**U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology  
Subcommittee on Oversight**

**HEARING CHARTER**

*Top Challenges for Science Agencies:  
Reports from the Inspectors General  
Part 2*

Thursday, March 14, 2013  
12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

**Purpose**

At 12:30 p.m. on March 14, 2013, the Subcommittee on Oversight will hold a hearing titled “Top Challenges for Science Agencies: Reports from the Inspectors General - Part 2.” This is the second of two such hearings planned prior to the Committee’s review of the Administration’s FY 2014 budget requests of these agencies. Part 1 of this series was held two weeks ago on February 28, 2013.

This hearing will provide Members of the Subcommittee the opportunity to receive testimony on the most serious performance and management challenges facing the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), from the perspective of the Inspectors General of each agency.

**Witnesses**

- **Mr. Gregory H. Friedman**, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Inspector General;
- **Mr. Arthur A. Elkins, Jr.**, Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Inspector General;
- **Ms. Mary L. Kendall**, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General.

**Overview**

Public Law 106–531 (the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000), requires agency Inspectors General (IG) to file annual reports that identify the most serious management and performance challenges facing their agencies.<sup>1</sup> These reports also assess agencies’ progress in their efforts to resolve the issues identified by the IGs.

---

<sup>1</sup> Public Law 106-351, “Reports Consolidation Acts of 2000,” available at: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-106publ531/html/PLAW-106publ531.htm>.

## U.S. Department of Energy

The DOE IG's report states that "on an annual basis, the Office of Inspector General identifies what it considers to be the most significant management challenges facing the Department. Now codified as part of the Reports Consolidation Act of 2000, under this effort we assess the agency's progress in addressing previously identified challenges and consider emerging issues facing the Department. Consistent with our mission, our goal is to use this process to advance efforts to work with the Department to enhance the effectiveness of agency programs and operations."<sup>2</sup> The report lists the following as management challenges at DOE:<sup>3</sup>

- Operational Efficiency and Cost Savings;
- Contract and Financial Assistance Award Management;
- Cyber Security;
- Energy Supply;
- Environmental Cleanup;
- Human Capital Management;
- Nuclear Waste Disposal;
- Safeguards and Security;
- Stockpile Stewardship.

## U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

In reporting on what it considers to be the "most serious management and performance challenges facing the Agency,"<sup>4</sup> the EPA IG explains that the office used "audit, evaluation, and investigative work, as well as additional analysis of Agency operations, to identify challenges and weaknesses."<sup>5</sup> The following are identified as management challenges at EPA:<sup>6</sup>

- Oversight of Delegations to States;
- Safe Reuse of Contaminated Sites;
- Limited Capability to Respond to Cyber Security Attacks;
- EPA's Framework for Assessing and Managing Chemical Risks;
- Workforce Planning.

## U.S. Department of the Interior

The DOI IG's report states, "[W]e are submitting what we determined are the most significant management and performance challenges facing the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI). The challenges listed are for inclusion in DOI's 'Agency Financial Report' for fiscal year 2012.

---

<sup>2</sup> *Management Challenges at the Department of Energy - Fiscal Year 2013*, October 19, 2012, available at: [http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/IG-0874\\_1.pdf](http://energy.gov/sites/prod/files/IG-0874_1.pdf).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> *EPA's Fiscal Year 2012 Management Challenges*, July 5, 2012, available at: [http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2012/Management\\_Challenges-2012.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2012/Management_Challenges-2012.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

These challenges reflect those that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) considers significant to departmental efforts to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in its bureaus' management and operations."<sup>7</sup> Top management and performance challenges at DOI are identified as:<sup>8</sup>

- Energy management;
- Climate change;
- Water programs;
- Responsibility to Indians and Insular Areas;
- *Cobell* and Indian land consolidation; and
- Operational efficiencies.

---

<sup>7</sup> *Inspector General's Statement Summarizing the Major Management and Performance Challenges Facing the U.S. Department of the Interior*, October 15, 2012, available at:

<http://www.doi.gov/oig/reports/upload/ER-SP-MOI-0002-2012Public.pdf>.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*