

Sent: 4/7/2020 8:07:41 PM
To: OIG-OA&E [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]@epa.gov]
Subject: OA&E Weekly

Good afternoon!

I don't know about you all, but the thought of donating blood seemed a bit daunting to me. Then, we had a blood drive in [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] yesterday, and the Red Cross provided a lot of information about the precautions they are taking during the pandemic to protect donors and volunteers. Next week when they're around, I'll be on the bus as a donor.

Remember that you can request administrative leave so that you have time to do this good deed. Talk to your supervisors.

This fourth week of telework feels different to me. I really miss seeing my Atlanta colleagues. I'm also sure my *monstera* plant at my desk is now a goner, and for someone who is as abysmal a gardener as me, that plant (Elvira) was a point of pride. There are countless surprising ways that our current scenario affects all of us. I wanted to remind everyone that the OIG is adapting in many ways to try and make this a bit easier.

- **Remember** that you can work with your supervisor to modify your work schedule so that it better suits your home responsibilities for child care, elder care, etc.
- **Remember** that with an approved EWP agreement, you can set aside three hours each week to focus on your own wellness.
- **Remember** that the EPA Employee Assistance Program is out there for all of us. Here's how to access it: *The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provided by ESPYR may be accessed 24/7 by calling 888-635-3202. Services and information are also available at espyr.com. Log in using password: [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] EAP services are available to all EPA employees.*

Along those lines, we want to know what else we can do to keep our OA&E family healthy and happy, so we are launching a new motivation and morale effort. It's still under development, with [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] at the helm, so you know it's going to be great. I know first-hand how many amazing things are going on in OA&E for mutual support, and I'm excited about scaling or replicating some of these great things across OA&E, especially now.

Next, a few SLT notes:

- In his new "dual-hat" role as EPA IG and Acting DOD IG, Sean clarified that he will *not* be heading up the CIGIE task force that Glenn Fine was going to lead.
- OM is working on a request from Sean for an EPA management survey. (OA&E will be involved, but not leading this effort. I'll take this opportunity to say call the AFCs you work with now and then! Take stock of our professional relationships! Talk to your director, deputy, or me if you'd like some ideas for how to develop and maintain these relationships in ways that smooth our processes, but does not impede our independence or objectivity.)
- Sean asked about our report review process. He is interested in learning how things move through the system. Those of you who have recently participated in Becky Klinger's new OCCPA consolidated review process through Sharepoint will know that there are some good changes in the works in this area. Eric Hanger described to Sean that we're piloting this new process, and getting ready to expand it. (Don't worry about it—we'll let you know when your report needs to take this path, and Becky's instructions are top notch.)
- Sean reiterated that he would like for PMs to be the shepherds for reports. (OA&E is working on a new checklist to help you with this! Look for more on this soon—we'll need your help to develop and keep it up to date. Meanwhile, your directors and deputies can help you keep track of our ever-changing process.)
- Ed updated the group on COVID-19 information from the EPA. Among these updates, directors and deputies are seeking out excess Personal Protective Equipment in OA&E that we could donate to FEMA for their response activities. If you see a request on this, please respond as quickly as you can.

- OA&E provided an update that you all are providing us with COVID-19-related assignment suggestions. Keep them coming. We discussed whether **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** If you have a suggestion for an assignment like this, please send it up through your director!
- Chuck asked that we remember to either send read-ahead docs before meetings with him, or attach existing documents to meeting invitations to keep it easy for him to prepare to meet with us.
- Chuck also mentioned that EPA is thinking through localized and safe activities for Earth Day. Do you have ideas for how you might celebrate? Let **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)** know so we can report on them!
- OM is developing a revised awards policy and it will soon go out for review. I'm very excited about this. We'll let you know what's in it when it comes around.

Last, we have our weekly all-hands meeting scheduled for Thursday afternoon. If you have a topic to suggest for discussion, please send it to **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)** @epa.gov .

That's all I have for now... Stay safe and sound out there. Talk to you all soon.

Katie

PS: Only five (5) exclamation marks this time. I'm trying to cut back! (Drat. 6.)

Kathlene Butler | Acting Assistant Inspector General
Office of Audit and Evaluation
US Environmental Protection Agency | Office of Inspector General
61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta GA 30303
phone: **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)**
email: Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov
OIG information: www.epa.gov/oig | [File an OIG Hotline Complaint](#)

Message

From: Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2020 6:18:49 PM
To: OIG Leadership Committee [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) @epa.gov]; OIG Deputy Assistant Inspectors General [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) @epa.gov]; OIG-HQ-OCPA [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) @epa.gov]; May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: E&E News: Democrats draft legislation to protect IGs from Trump

FYI. Dem leadership letter to CIGIE Chair:

<https://oversight.house.gov/sites/democrats.oversight.house.gov/files/2020-04-09.CBM%20et%20al.%20to%20CIGIE%20re%20IG%20Independence.pdf>

From: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 2:10 PM
To: OIG Leadership Committee [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) @epa.gov]; OIG Deputy Assistant Inspectors General [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) @epa.gov]; OIG-HQ-OCPA [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) @epa.gov]; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Subject: E&E News: Democrats draft legislation to protect IGs from Trump

FYI

E&E News: [Democrats draft legislation to protect IGs from Trump](#)

Jeffrey A. Lagda
Congressional and Media Liaison
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs - Office of Inspector General
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FEDERAL AGENCIES

Democrats draft legislation to protect IGs from Trump

[Kelsey Brugger](#), E&E News reporter



Published: Friday, April 10, 2020

House Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) and other committee leaders fired off a letter today on the president's treatment of inspectors general. Francis Chung/E&E News

House Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney drafted legislation that would prevent the president from removing independent watchdogs without "good cause."

The New York Democrat's bill and accompanying letter from a host of House committee leaders comes after a series of presidential actions that critics see as against inspectors general.

On Monday, President Trump demoted Pentagon IG Glenn Fine and ordered EPA IG Sean O'Donnell to take on the workload, in addition to O'Donnell's existing responsibilities.

Last week, Trump fired intelligence community IG Michael Atkinson, who sent the now-famous whistleblower complaint to Congress that sparked an impeachment inquiry. The president declared Atkinson "is not a big Trump fan."

The president also appointed a White House attorney to be a special inspector general of the Treasury's pandemic recovery ([Greenwire](#), April 7).

IGs are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate but are given considerable leeway to scrutinize federal agency actions.

Maloney accused the president of trying to degrade the independent watchdogs at a time when Congress is appropriating trillions of dollars in response to the coronavirus crisis and needs to ensure adequate oversight.

"Unlike any President in modern history, President Trump has engaged in offensive and unjustified attacks against Inspectors General, criticizing them for following the law, and retaliating against them for telling the truth," they wrote in a letter to Michael Horowitz, chairman of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

The letter said each presidential action on its own would "raise significant concerns." "Together, they reflect a campaign of political retaliation and reward that is antithetical to good government, undermine the proper stewardship of taxpayer dollars, and degrade the federal government's ability to function competently," said the letter.

Maloney's bill, the "Inspector General Independence Act," would limit the grounds for removal to "good cause" conditions, including permanent incapacity; inefficiency; neglect of duty; malfeasance; conviction of a felony; or a conduct involving moral turpitude, gross mismanagement, among other transgressions. She asks Horowitz for input on the proposal.

O'Donnell, the EPA IG confirmed in January, recently grabbed headlines after EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler called on him to scrap a new report on the lack of community outreach to places potentially exposed to a cancer-causing chemical. He refused to do so ([Greenwire](#), April 1).

Message

From: Hess, Kathryn [Hess.Kathryn@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/6/2020 6:02:24 PM
To: Butler, Kathlene [Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: DOD IG nominee?

That would be a good reason

From: Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2020 2:01 PM
To: Hess, Kathryn <Hess.Kathryn@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: DOD IG nominee?

Maybe bc Glenn Fine is also chairing the CIGIE CARES oversight group? <https://ignet.gov/sites/default/files/files/PRAC-press-release.pdf> (That was my guess...)

From: Hess, Kathryn <Hess.Kathryn@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:59 PM
To: Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: DOD IG nominee?

What I don't get is that Glenn Fines has been the "acting" IG for DOD for over three years. What's the big hurry to bring someone else in as acting while the nomination proceeds through the Senate?

From: Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 06, 2020 1:56 PM
To: Hess, Kathryn <Hess.Kathryn@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: DOD IG nominee?

I knew y'all would be on it. Thank you!

From: Hess, Kathryn <Hess.Kathryn@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 1:55 PM
To: Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: DOD IG nominee?

Jason Abend

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/president-donald-j-trump-announces-intent-nominate-individuals-key-administration-posts-27/>

Jason Abend of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Department of Defense.

Mr. Abend currently serves as Senior Policy Advisor, United States Customs and Border Protection.

Prior to his current role, Mr. Abend served in the Federal Housing Finance Agency's Office of Inspector General as a Special Agent. Before that, he served as a Special Agent in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Inspector General, where he led a team investigating complex Federal Housing Administration mortgage and reverse mortgage fraud, civil fraud, public housing assistance fraud, and internal agency personnel cases.

Mr. Abend was also the Founder and CEO of the Public Safety Media Group, LLC, a professional services firm that provided strategic and operational human resources consulting, training, and advertising to Federal, State, and local public safety agencies, the United States Military, and Intelligence agencies.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Abend worked as a Special Agent at the United States Secret Service and as an Intelligence Research Specialist at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Abend received his bachelor's degree from American University and has received master's degrees from both American University and George Washington University.

Kathryn M Hess

Acting Director, Water Issues
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency | Office of Inspector General | Office of Audit and Evaluation
617.918.1487 | hess.kathryn@epa.gov

From: Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>

Sent: Monday, April 06, 2020 1:49 PM

To: Hess, Kathryn <Hess.Kathryn@epa.gov>

Subject: DOD IG nominee?

Hey! I know someone in the WD will be on top of this. I can't find the news on the DOD IG nominee... Can you please forward me anything our folks come up with? Hope you're safe and well...

KB

Message

From: Eyermann, Richard [Eyermann.Richard@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2020 4:27:43 PM
To: OIG-OA&E [Ex. 5 Personal Privacy (PP)]@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Quarterly meeting with RA/DRA

Good Day OA&E – hope this finds you well and safe

Pat Gilbride sends the notes from the meeting with the R8 RA. Thank you Pat.

From: Gilbride, Patrick <Gilbride.Patrick@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:59 PM
To: O'Donnell, Sean <ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov>; Sheehan, Charles <Sheehan.Charles@epa.gov>; Shields, Edward <Shields.Ed@epa.gov>; Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>; El-Zoghbi, Christine <El-Zoghbi.Christine@epa.gov>
Subject: Quarterly meeting with RA/DRA

Hi All – Hope your doing well. I had my quarterly meeting with the RA/DRA today by phone. (Sean, so you are aware, some of the POCs meet with the RA/DRA separately to provide updates and discuss goings on. Some attend SLT meetings.)

New OIG Projects and updates–

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

For the OIG

We have a new IG – Sean O’Donnell. Sean comes to EPA from DOJ. Has also been asked to act as the IG for DOD until confirmation of the DOD IG nominee. He will be coming out at some point and would like to meet with both of you. They welcome the visit and look forward to meeting you.

What challenges are you facing with COVID and stay at home orders?

Cybersecurity – with everyone working remotely and using various tools to communicate there is concern on relaying

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Enforcement Guidance –

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Pat

*Patrick Gilbride
Director, Environmental Research Programs
U.S. EPA, Office of Inspector General
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO. 80202
303-312-6969*

Message

From: Sammons, Scott [Sammons.Scott@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 8:05:27 PM
To: Butler, Kathlene [Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: CNN Politics: Trump removes independent watchdog tasked with overseeing coronavirus emergency funds

Yea, it has been a good few months. Well let's keep our fingers crossed! I was just talking to Vincent and he told me Sean mentioned it yesterday in the all hands. I couldn't make the meeting yesterday, so when i was just browsing articles and saw that, I was like "What?" lol.

Hopefully, we will look back on all of this craziness going on in year and be able to make jokes about it!! 😊

Scott Sammons, CGAP
Senior IT Auditor
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Inspector General
Office of Audit and Evaluation
Information Resources Management Directorate
Office:(404) 562-9854

OIG information: www.epa.gov/oig | [File an OIG Hotline Complaint](#)

From: Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 3:59 PM
To: Sammons, Scott <Sammons.Scott@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: CNN Politics: Trump removes independent watchdog tasked with overseeing coronavirus emergency funds

Me, too. It's been a pretty good few months. There is a possible nominee for DOD IG, so let's hope that guy is nominated and approved. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/president-donald-j-trump-announces-intent-nominate-individuals-key-administration-posts-27/>

From: Sammons, Scott <Sammons.Scott@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:50 PM
To: Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: CNN Politics: Trump removes independent watchdog tasked with overseeing coronavirus emergency funds

I just hope he doesn't leave to take it full time if offered.

Scott Sammons, CGAP
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Office of the Inspector General
Office of Audit and Evaluation
Information Resources Management Directorate
Office:(404) 562-9854

OIG information: www.epa.gov/oig | [File an OIG Hotline Complaint](#)

From: Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 3:48 PM

To: Sammons, Scott <Sammons.Scott@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: CNN Politics: Trump removes independent watchdog tasked with overseeing coronavirus emergency funds

Yeah...we don't know yet, and neither does Sean. He says he's hoping this will be a short-lived responsibility. Glenn Fine will still be at DOD, so hopefully he'll still be able to basically run things. Remains to be seen!

Hope you're well!

Katie

From: Sammons, Scott <Sammons.Scott@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:46 PM

To: Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: CNN Politics: Trump removes independent watchdog tasked with overseeing coronavirus emergency funds

Hi Katie,

I hope you're doing well. I just happen to run across this news article. What exactly will this mean for us with Sean acting for DOD also?

Scott Sammons, CGAP
Senior IT Auditor
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Inspector General
Office of Audit and Evaluation
Information Resources Management Directorate
Office:(404) 562-9854

OIG information: www.epa.gov/oig | [File an OIG Hotline Complaint](#)

From: Scott Sammons (b) (6) <[redacted]@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 3:44 PM

To: Sammons, Scott <Sammons.Scott@epa.gov>

Subject: CNN Politics: Trump removes independent watchdog tasked with overseeing coronavirus emergency funds

Trump removes independent watchdog tasked with overseeing coronavirus emergency funds

President Donald Trump has removed the acting inspector general for the Defense Department, Glenn Fine, from his post — a decision that means Fine will no longer chair the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee tasked with overseeing \$2 trillion in emergency coronavirus funding.

Read in CNN Politics: https://apple.news/AH1ZmjvHnRu2LSt8ta-FV_Q

Shared from [Apple News](#)

Scott

Message

From: Butler, Kathlene [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=C0A242A2FAEF45E39BA06B03D8082FA0-BUTLER, KATHLENE]
Sent: 4/10/2020 12:44:10 PM
To: Gilbride, Patrick [Gilbride.Patrick@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Quarterly meeting with RA/DRA

Thanks, Pat.

From: Gilbride, Patrick <Gilbride.Patrick@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:59 PM
To: O'Donnell, Sean <ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov>; Sheehan, Charles <Sheehan.Charles@epa.gov>; Shields, Edward <Shields.Ed@epa.gov>; Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>; El-Zoghbi, Christine <El-Zoghbi.Christine@epa.gov>
Subject: Quarterly meeting with RA/DRA

Hi All – Hope your doing well. I had my quarterly meeting with the RA/DRA today by phone. (Sean, so you are aware, some of the POCs meet with the RA/DRA separately to provide updates and discuss goings on. Some attend SLT meetings.)

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Pat

*Patrick Gilbride
Director, Environmental Research Programs
U.S. EPA, Office of Inspector General
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO. 80202
303-312-6969*

Message

Sent: 4/8/2020 11:09:56 AM
To: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]; Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Hi Jennifer, Ben, and Jeff,

Last night, we discussed sending a quick note to the hill regarding Sean's new role. I was thinking about saying something like this:

Good morning,

Recently, IG Sean O'Donnell was asked to serve as the acting IG for DoD. As there have been multiple conflicting news reports, I just wanted to check in and provide you with the most current information.

Mr. O'Donnell will serve as both the EPA IG and the acting Defense Department inspector general as of this week. Regarding Mr. O'Donnell's role on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), under the CARES Act, the DOD IG is a member on the PRAC. Mr. Glenn Fine, the prior acting DOD IG, was named to lead the PRAC by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). By statute under the CARES Act, CIGIE will be responsible for naming a new head of the PRAC.

As you can imagine, all of this developed rather quickly. We'll be sure to keep you updated regarding any further developments.

Please don't hesitate to contact Jeff, Jennifer, Ben, or me if you have any questions.

Ben, Jennifer, and Jeff – please let me know if we should add/delete anything.

Thank you,

Tia

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:36 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Yes, that's fine.

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Just remembered- it's been difficult reaching people via phone now that everyone is teleworking. It might be easier to check in via email.

Tia

From: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:15 PM

To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Sure. Talk to you then.

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

5 minutes?

From: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:14 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Is now good?

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Ok- im at Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

What time would work?

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Works for me.

Thanks,

Tia

From: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:04 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

I am. If Tia is available, should we just do a three-way call (I can initiate.) instead of the conference line? FYI, Jeff is off today.

Jennifer

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 5:03 PM

To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>

Subject: Discussion?

Are you guys available for a quick chat? Thanks-

Ben

Benjamin May
Special Counsel to the Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-0053

Message

Sent: 4/8/2020 2:09:54 PM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: EPA IG Update

Ben said that he'd get back to them about the following questions:

- How did he get the position? Was it something that the IG asked to do? Who approached him? When?
- What is the IG's role? – get back regarding role on PRAC
- Did Fine just term out of the 180 day acting period?

From: Elbaum, Kentia
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA IG Update

Oh, sorry. Just realized what you meant. She's talking about our questions from the teleconference. I'll send you something momentarily.

Tia

From: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA IG Update

Hi Tia:

Would you send me Michal's questions. I am unsure if I accidentally deleted it or was not copied on it.

Thanks.

Jeff

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:12 AM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA IG Update

Ben,

Please see below from Michal.

Thanks,

Tia

From: Freedhoff, Michal (EPW) <Michal.Freedhoff@epw.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:08 AM

To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Eiler, Brian (EPW) <Brian_Eiler@epw.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: EPA IG Update

Thanks. Any sense for when you might have the answers to our questions?

Michal

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2020, at 8:57 AM, Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Recently, IG Sean O'Donnell was asked to serve as the acting IG for DoD. As there have been multiple conflicting news reports, I just wanted to check in and provide you with the most current information.

Mr. O'Donnell will serve as both the EPA IG and the acting DoD IG as of this week. Regarding Mr. O'Donnell's role on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), under the CARES Act, the DoD IG is a member on the PRAC. Mr. Glenn Fine, the prior acting DoD IG, was named to lead the PRAC by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). By statute under the CARES Act, CIGIE will be responsible for naming a new head of the PRAC.

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Please don't hesitate to contact Jeff, Jennifer, Ben, or me if you have any questions.

Tia

Kentia Elbaum
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs - Office of Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-2548
Elbaum.Kentia@epa.gov

Message

Sent: 4/8/2020 2:03:01 PM
To: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
CC: Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: EPA IG Update

Sure, I can set up a call and a prep meeting.

Tia

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:49 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA IG Update

All,

Can we set up a call with them for this afternoon (at 4 pm or so)?

We don't have much to add; we have no underlying knowledge of the WH's decision-making process here. I can provide more background on the events of Monday from the IG's perspective, but that's all.

Also, I'm going to have a conflict on the 11 am prep call, but I will try to join you all for the 11:30 am call. Thanks for looping me in.

Maybe we can have a quick prep call before we talk with EPW minority again, sometime this pm.

Ben

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:12 AM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA IG Update

Ben,

Please see below from Michal.

Thanks,

Tia

From: Freedhoff, Michal (EPW) <Michal.Freedhoff@epw.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Eiler, Brian (EPW) <Brian.Eiler@epw.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: EPA IG Update

Thanks. Any sense for when you might have the answers to our questions?

Michal

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2020, at 8:57 AM, Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

Recently, IG Sean O'Donnell was asked to serve as the acting IG for DoD. As there have been multiple conflicting news reports, I just wanted to check in and provide you with the most current information.

Mr. O'Donnell will serve as both the EPA IG and the acting DoD IG as of this week. Regarding Mr. O'Donnell's role on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), under the CARES Act, the DoD IG is a member on the PRAC. Mr. Glenn Fine, the prior acting DoD IG, was named to lead the PRAC by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). By statute under the CARES Act, CIGIE will be responsible for naming a new head of the PRAC.

As you can imagine, all of this developed rather quickly. We'll be sure to keep you updated regarding any further developments.

Please don't hesitate to contact Jeff, Jennifer, Ben, or me if you have any questions.

Tia

Kentia Elbaum
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs - Office of Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-2548
Elbaum.Kentia@epa.gov

Message

Sent: 4/7/2020 5:10:25 PM
To: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Quick question re: coronavirus

Both of these are correct, right? He will only have a seat on the PRAC.

Thanks,

Tia

From: Lee, Stephen <stephenlee@bloombergenvironment.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 1:04 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick question re: coronavirus

Got it. Thanks. Two follow-ups:

1. Published reports have said IG O'Donnell will be the new temporary *head* of the PRAC. Is that accurate? Your email, to me, reads that he will only have a seat on the PRAC.
2. Will IG O'Donnell remain at the EPA OIG?

Stephen Lee

Reporter

Bloomberg Environment

Direct:
Mobile:

Twitter: @sklee_ca

stephenlee@bloombergenvironment.com

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 1:00 PM
To: Lee, Stephen <stephenlee@bloombergenvironment.com>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick question re: coronavirus

Hi Stephen,

Mr. Glenn Fine, the prior acting Department of Defense (DOD) Inspector General, was named to lead the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee. Mr. O'Donnell has been named as the new acting DOD IG. Under the CARES Act, the DOD IG is a member on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), consisting of several IGs and responsible for preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse under the Act. Further, by statute under the Act, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) will be responsible for naming a new head of the PRAC.

If you have any other questions, please let me know.

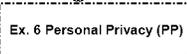
Tia

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Office of Congressional and Public Affairs - Office of Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-2548
Elbaum.Kentia@epa.gov

From: Lee, Stephen <stephenlee@bloombergenvironment.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:29 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: Quick question re: coronavirus

Hey guys. A healthcare lobbyist just told me the point person who will be heading the federal government's watchdog group overseeing coronavirus funding is with the EPA OIG. I might have that wrong—just doing a fact check. Is that true, and if so, who is that person?

Best,

Stephen Lee
Reporter
Bloomberg Environment
Direct:  Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Mobile: 
Twitter: @sklee_ca
stephenlee@bloombergenvironment.com

Message

From: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2020 3:23:26 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]
CC: Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: Bloomberg call

All-

I'm not sure I'm going to make the 11:30 call. Please press forward without me.

Thanks-
Ben

From: May, Benjamin
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:49 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA IG Update

All,

Can we set up a call with them for this afternoon (at 4 pm or so)?

We don't have much to add; we have no underlying knowledge of the WH's decision-making process here. I can provide more background on the events of Monday from the IG's perspective, but that's all.

Also, I'm going to have a conflict on the 11 am prep call, but I will try to join you all for the 11:30 am call. Thanks for looping me in.

Maybe we can have a quick prep call before we talk with EPW minority again, sometime this pm.

Ben

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:12 AM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA IG Update

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To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>

Cc: Eiler, Brian (EPW) <Brian_Eiler@epw.senate.gov>

Subject: Re: EPA IG Update

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Sent from my iPhone

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Kentia Elbaum
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-2548
Elbaum.Kentia@epa.gov

Message

From: Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 5:13:40 PM
To: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]; Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

I can join at that time.

Jennifer

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 1:12 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

Are you guys able to join me on a call at 4:45 or so?

Tia, can you set it up with them?

Thanks-
Ben

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:46 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

Ben,

Senate EPW Minority would like to discuss the IG's new role. Please let me know your availability for a teleconference and if there's anyone else that you think should attend.

Thank you,

Tia

From: Eiler, Brian (EPW) <Brian_Eiler@epw.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:42 PM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

Jeff and Tia,

Good Afternoon. Can we arrange a phone call between the three of us, as soon as possible to discuss Mr. O'Donnell's move to the Department of Defense? I suspect you are as surprised as we are by these developments. My colleagues and I have questions. I'm hoping to get some clarification on today's announcement and sort through what this means for EPA IG.

Thanks and I look forward to chatting,

Brian

Brian C. Eiler
Oversight Counsel (Democratic Staff)
U.S. Senate, Committee on Environment and Public Works

Message

From: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 5:12:18 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]
CC: Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

Are you guys able to join me on a call at 4:45 or so?

Tia, can you set it up with them?

Thanks-
Ben

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:46 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

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Thank you,

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To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

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Thanks and I look forward to chatting,
Brian

Brian C. Eiler
Oversight Counsel (Democratic Staff)
U.S. Senate, Committee on Environment and Public Works

Message

From: Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 5:00:50 PM
To: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
CC: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]; Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: DOD IG

Oh, good, I just did – and cc'd you! We're on the same page.

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 1:00 PM
To: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Cc: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: DOD IG

Agreed- can we refer them to the WH for the 2nd question? It seems that any response to that question is likely to be misinterpreted.

From: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:53 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: DOD IG

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 12:14 PM
To: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Cc: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: DOD IG

Jennifer-

Yes, it's already in effect. I don't think: Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ben

From: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:09 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: DOD IG

Ben - already in effect, correct?

Do you want to provide language for a response to the second question?

Thanks,

Jennifer

Begin forwarded message:

From: Alex Guillen <aguillen@politico.com>

Date: April 7, 2020 at 11:47:54 AM EDT

To: "Lagda, Jeffrey" <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>, "Elbaum, Kentia" <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>, "Kaplan, Jennifer" <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>

Subject: DOD IG

Inside Defense reports that IG Sean O'Donnell will serve as the acting Defense Department inspector general. Is that correct? When did or does he start that new role?

Also, how can he continue oversight of EPA when also trying to oversee OIG operations at one of the biggest, highest spending, geographically sprawling federal agencies at the same time?

Thanks,

Alex Guillen | Energy Reporter | **POLITICOPRO**

1000 Wilson Boulevard, 8th Floor | Arlington, VA 22209

Phone: 703.341.4619

Email: aguillen@politico.com | Twitter: [@alexaguillen](https://twitter.com/alexaguillen) | Website: www.POLITICOPro.com

Message

From: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 4:54:22 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: BREAKING NEWS: Trump removes independent watchdog for coronavirus funds, upending oversight panel

Tia-

Please use this language:

Mr. Glenn Fine, the prior acting Department of Defense (DOD) Inspector General, was named to lead the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee. Mr. O'Donnell has been named as the new acting DOD IG. Under the CARES Act, the DOD IG is a member on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), consisting of several IGs and responsible for preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse under the Act. Further, by statute under the Act, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) will be responsible for naming a new head of the PRAC.

From: May, Benjamin
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:36 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Cc: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: BREAKING NEWS: Trump removes independent watchdog for coronavirus funds, upending oversight panel

Tia-

I saw the old version went out; please use the newer version though. With the one edit:

Glenn Fine, the prior acting DOD IG, was named to lead the CIGIE coronavirus relief group. Under the CARES Act, the DOD IG is on the coronavirus relief oversight committee, but Sean O'Donnell is not replacing Mr. Fine as the head of the group. Michael Horowitz, the CIGIE head, will have the say for naming a new head of the coronavirus relief oversight group to appoint the chair. The

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:32 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Cc: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: BREAKING NEWS: Trump removes independent watchdog for coronavirus funds, upending oversight panel

Thanks, Ben. I can update CBS and Politico. Just got the same question from Bloomberg Environment.

Tia

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:28 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>

Cc: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>

Subject: RE: BREAKING NEWS: Trump removes independent watchdog for coronavirus funds, upending oversight panel

All-

This helps to explain the garble from the CBS request previously. Here is what we can say:

Glenn Fine, the prior acting DOD IG, was named to lead the CIGIE coronavirus relief group. By statute, the DOD IG is on the coronavirus relief oversight committee, but Sean O'Donnell is not replacing Mr. Fine as the head of the group. As Glenn Fine is no longer the acting DOD IG, he no longer is the head of the coronavirus relief committee. Michael Horowitz, the CIGIE head, will have the say for naming a new head of the coronavirus relief oversight group.

Thanks-
Ben

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:13 PM

To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: BREAKING NEWS: Trump removes independent watchdog for coronavirus funds, upending oversight panel

FYI

From: POLITICO <email@politicoemail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:05 PM

To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>

Subject: BREAKING NEWS: Trump removes independent watchdog for coronavirus funds, upending oversight panel

President Donald Trump has upended the panel of federal watchdogs overseeing his implementation of the \$2 trillion coronavirus law, tapping a replacement for the Pentagon official who was supposed to lead the effort.

A panel of inspectors general had named Glenn Fine — the acting Pentagon watchdog — to lead the group charged with monitoring the coronavirus relief effort. But Trump on Monday removed Fine from his post, instead naming an EPA inspector general to serve as the temporary Pentagon watchdog.

That decision effectively removed Fine from his role overseeing the coronavirus relief effort, since the new law permits only current inspectors general to fill the position.

"Mr. Fine is no longer on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee," Dwrena Allen, a spokesperson for the Pentagon inspector general's office, said in a statement to POLITICO.

Read more: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/07/trump-removes-independent-watchdog-for-coronavirus-funds-upending-oversight-panel-171943>

To change your alert settings, please go to <https://secure.politico.com/newsletter-settings>

POLITICO

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Please click [here](#) and follow the steps to unsubscribe.

Message

From: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 4:36:50 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: BREAKING NEWS: Trump removes independent watchdog for coronavirus funds, upending oversight panel

Give me a call

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: May, Benjamin
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:36 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Cc: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: BREAKING NEWS: Trump removes independent watchdog for coronavirus funds, upending oversight panel

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To change your alert settings, please go to <https://secure.politico.com/newsletter-settings>

POLITICO

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Message

From: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 4:34:40 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]; Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]
CC: Hanger, Eric [Hanger.Eric@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: BREAKING NEWS: Trump removes independent watchdog for coronavirus funds, upending oversight panel

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To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
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That decision effectively removed Fine from his role overseeing the coronavirus relief effort, since the new law permits only current inspectors general to fill the position.

"Mr. Fine is no longer on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee," Dwrena Allen, a spokesperson for the Pentagon inspector general's office, said in a statement to POLITICO.

Read more: <https://www.politico.com/news/2020/04/07/trump-removes-independent-watchdog-for-coronavirus-funds-upending-oversight-panel-171943>

To change your alert settings, please go to <https://secure.politico.com/newsletter-settings>

POLITICO

This email was sent to elbaum.kentia@epa.gov by: POLITICO, LLC 1000 Wilson Blvd. Arlington, VA, 22209, USA

Please click [here](#) and follow the steps to unsubscribe.

Message

From: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 4:33:16 PM
To: Hanger, Eric [Hanger.Eric@epa.gov]; Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]; Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Inspector general

I believe it is public information already (and there was an announcement made yesterday). I think we can confirm the news, at least.

Ben

From: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:26 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Inspector general

Ben – Is this something we can confirm at this point? I would think prudence dictates we would refer to the WH press office to make the announcement.

Eric

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:00 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Inspector general

Jennifer, Jeff, and Tia-

Another request is coming on this issue (see below). Thanks-

Ben

From: Gunasekara, Mandy <gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:55 AM
To: O'Donnell, Sean <ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Inspector general

FYI this press request is headed to your press shop.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Woods, Andrea" <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>
Date: April 7, 2020 at 11:53:03 AM EDT
To: "Shimmin, Kaitlyn" <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>, "Gunasekara, Mandy" <gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov>

Cc: "Schiermeyer, Corry" <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>, "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Inspector general

Kaitlyn and Mandy –

Flagging this inquiry for both of you. Kaitlyn, can we confirm this? We can also refer her to the OIG's press office if not.

From: Maxine Joselow <mjoselow@eenews.net>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:47 AM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Inspector general

Hello,

I'm currently writing an article based on this story from Inside Defense, which states that EPA inspector general Sean O'Donnell will serve as the acting inspector general at the Defense Department in addition to his current responsibilities at EPA:

<https://insidedefense.com/insider/trump-orders-dod-watchdog-sidelined>

I was hoping someone in EPA's press office could confirm this development and provide any additional information. My deadline is technically noon, but if you get me a comment or statement by around 1:30pm, we can update the story to include it.

Thanks,
Maxine

--

Maxine Joselow
E&E News reporter

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

E&E NEWS

122 C Street NW 7th Floor Washington, DC 20001

www.eenews.net | [@EENewsUpdates](https://twitter.com/EENewsUpdates)

Energywire, Climatewire, Greenwire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

Message

From: Brazauskas, Joseph [brazauskas.joseph@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2020 12:30:38 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]
CC: Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]; Voyles, Travis [Voyles.Travis@epa.gov]; Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]; May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Subject: RE:

Thank you very much for clarifying Tia.

Joseph A. Brazauskas Jr.
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-5189

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:30 AM
To: Brazauskas, Joseph <brazauskas.joseph@epa.gov>
Cc: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Voyles, Travis <Voyles.Travis@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE:

Hi Joe,

No, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) will be responsible for naming a new head of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC).

There's some confusion because Mr. Glenn Fine, the prior acting DoD IG, was named to lead the PRAC. Under the CARES Act, the DoD IG is a member on the PRAC, consisting of several IGs and responsible for preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse under the Act. Further, by statute under the Act, the CIGIE is responsible for naming a new head of the PRAC.

Tia

From: Brazauskas, Joseph <brazauskas.joseph@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:50 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Voyles, Travis <Voyles.Travis@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE:

Tia – I was reading Morning Energy and it seems to be reporting that Sean is going to be the IG for the coronavirus stimulus package. Is this accurate? I thought his role was just Acting DoD IG? Thank you, Joe

Joseph A. Brazauskas Jr.
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-5189

From: Brazauskas, Joseph
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Voyles, Travis <Voyles.Travis@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE:

Thank you.

Joseph A. Brazauskas Jr.
Associate Administrator
Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-5189

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:09 PM
To: Brazauskas, Joseph <brazauskas.joseph@epa.gov>
Cc: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Voyles, Travis <Voyles.Travis@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE:

Hi Joe,

Correct. IG O'Donnell will also serve as the acting IG for DoD. IG O'Donnell is filling both roles for now.

Tia

Kentia Elbaum
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs - Office of Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-2548
Elbaum.Kentia@epa.gov

From: Brazauskas, Joseph <brazauskas.joseph@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 3:06 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Voyles, Travis <Voyles.Travis@epa.gov>
Subject:

Tia,

I see Jeff is out of the office. I am getting a lot of inquiries with regard to what is happening with Sean O'Donnell as IG. Is he staying in his role as IG at EPA and also working as the Acting IG for DOD?

Thanks,
Joe

Joseph A. Brazauskas Jr.
Associate Administrator

Office of Congressional & Intergovernmental Relations
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-5189

Message

From: Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2020 3:09:37 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]
CC: Hanger, Eric [Hanger.Eric@epa.gov]; Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]; May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Discussion?

Importance: High

Hi Tia:

If you haven't done so already, would you please send the statement to our counterparts at DoD OIG, Michael Zola and Dwrena Allen?

Thanks,

Jeff

From: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 11:00 AM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Thanks, all, and especially Tia. I started my workday late today but see this went out.

Jennifer

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 08, 2020 7:49 AM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Tia-

I agree, it looks great, and I like how it's framed. Thanks-

Ben

From: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:22 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Hi Tia:

This looks fine to me: short and succinct!

Thanks,

Jeff

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 7:18 AM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Hi Jennifer, Ben, and Jeff,

Yesterday we discussed sending a quick note to the hill regarding Sean's new role. I was thinking about saying something like this:

Good morning,

Recently, IG Sean O'Donnell was asked to serve as the acting IG for DoD. As there have been multiple conflicting news reports, I just wanted to check in and provide you with the most current information.

Mr. O'Donnell will serve as both the EPA IG and the acting DoD IG as of this week. Regarding Mr. O'Donnell's role on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), under the CARES Act, the DoD IG is a member on the PRAC. Mr. Glenn Fine, the prior acting DoD IG, was named to lead the PRAC by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). By statute under the CARES Act, CIGIE will be responsible for naming a new head of the PRAC.

As you can imagine, all of this developed rather quickly. We'll be sure to keep you updated regarding any further developments.

Please don't hesitate to contact Jeff, Jennifer, Ben, or me if you have any questions.

Ben, Jennifer, and Jeff – please let me know if we should add/delete anything.

Thank you,

Tia

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:36 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Yes, that's fine.

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:35 PM
To: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Just remembered- it's been difficult reaching people via phone now that everyone is teleworking. It might be easier to check in via email.

Tia

From: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:15 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Sure. Talk to you then.

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 5:14 PM
To: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

5 minutes?

From: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:14 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Is now good?

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 5:13 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Ok- im at Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

What time would work?

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:05 PM
To: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

Works for me.

Thanks,

Tia

From: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 5:04 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Discussion?

I am. If Tia is available, should we just do a three-way call (I can initiate.) instead of the conference line? FYI, Jeff is off today.

Jennifer

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>

Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 5:03 PM

To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>

Subject: Discussion?

Are you guys available for a quick chat? Thanks-

Ben

Benjamin May
Special Counsel to the Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-0053

Message

From: Hanger, Eric [Hanger.Eric@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/8/2020 1:03:59 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: EPA IG Update

Thanks, Tia, for taking care of this, and clarifying Sean's role re the PRAC.

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 8:57 AM
To: justin_Memmott@epw.senate.gov; matt_leggett@epw.senate.gov; christophe_tulou@epw.senate.gov; michal_freedhoff@epw.senate.gov; Brian_Eiler@epw.senate.gov
Cc: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>; Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA IG Update

Good morning,

Recently, IG Sean O'Donnell was asked to serve as the acting IG for DoD. As there have been multiple conflicting news reports, I just wanted to check in and provide you with the most current information.

Mr. O'Donnell will serve as both the EPA IG and the acting DoD IG as of this week. Regarding Mr. O'Donnell's role on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), under the CARES Act, the DoD IG is a member on the PRAC. Mr. Glenn Fine, the prior acting DoD IG, was named to lead the PRAC by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). By statute under the CARES Act, CIGIE will be responsible for naming a new head of the PRAC.

As you can imagine, all of this developed rather quickly. We'll be sure to keep you updated regarding any further developments.

Please don't hesitate to contact Jeff, Jennifer, Ben, or me if you have any questions.

Tia

Kentia Elbaum
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs - Office of Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-2548
Elbaum.Kentia@epa.gov

Message

From: Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 3:55:10 PM
To: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
CC: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]; Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: Re: IG O'Donnell new appointment

Terrific. Thanks, Ben. Please include Tia as a POC, as well.

We just received two additional, similar inquiries. It appears that Inside Defense broke this news.

Jennifer

On Apr 7, 2020, at 11:50 AM, May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov> wrote:

Jennifer-

Good to meet you (virtually). I am fine with confirmation being provided on this inquiry, thanks for checking.

Also, I will include you (and Jeff) on an email to DOD OIG as POCs for other possible press and Congressional inquiries going forward (along with myself).

Thanks!

Ben

From: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:43 AM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: IG O'Donnell new appointment

Good morning, Ben,

I am the deputy for OCPA (position in which Jeff Lagda has been acting) Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP). I look forward to "meeting" you if only virtually for the time being.

With regard to the press inquiry below, are you okay with my providing confirmation?

Thank you.

Jennifer

Jennifer Kaplan
Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) mobile

Begin forwarded message:

From: Connor O'Brien <cobrien@politico.com>
Date: April 7, 2020 at 11:05:49 AM EDT
To: "Kaplan, Jennifer" <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: IG O'Donnell new appointment

Hi Jennifer,
I was told the president has appointed Sean O'Donnell, the EPA IG, to be dual hatted as Acting Defense Department IG in addition to his current duties at the EPA.

Any chance you can confirm this appointment? Thanks.
Connor

Connor O'Brien
Senior Defense Reporter
POLITICO
 (m)
cobrien@politico.com
[@connorobrienNH](https://twitter.com/connorobrienNH)

Message

From: Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/10/2020 3:55:59 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]; Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Notes from Meeting

Jeff, I found your notes helpful, as well, even though I was present for the entire meeting! Thank you.

FYI, I just reached out to Michael Zola (left him a voice message) relative to Sean's directive that he and I chat every week or fortnightly. I know that you are going to be in touch with Michael and Dwrena, as well.

Jennifer

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 10:09 AM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Notes from Meeting

Hi Jeff,

Thank you very much for sharing your notes. This is very helpful.

Tia

From: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2020 10:05 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: Notes from Meeting

Hi Tia:

Since you missed much of the call, here are my notes (Jennifer, please chime in if I misinterpreted anything below!):

- He wants Jeff more involved in day-day operations of DoD OIG, including their meetings, so Jeff can serve as a conduit back to EPA OIG leadership
- Sean emphasized his DoD IG role is temporary; his goal is **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** the EPA IG
- He wants strong independent messages coming separately from DoD OIG and EPA OIG
- OCPA has public affairs experience with a confirmed IG, which DoD OIG has not had in a long time
- Jennifer confirmed that calls related to DoD OIG coming to us should be referred to DoD OIG
- Sean expressed concern about **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** he believed it led to misunderstandings, including that he was appointed the PRAC Chair. **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**
- **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** Our response to the leadership change **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** helped quickly clear things up
- He received many congratulatory greetings related to being appointed PRAC Chair
- Jennifer advised that OCPA is handling these changes in stride; Tia and Jeff can attest that we're always busy
- Jeff advised Sean that he'd reach out this afternoon to Dwrena and Michael about being more integrated with them. Sean asked that Jeff get involved with their weekly status meetings, update meetings, etc. He recommended **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** involving Jennifer, Tia, and me.

- Sean asked that we revisit this arrangement in a month's time and see if there are any necessary changes to the process
- Eric clarified our role would be not to weigh in on any DoD product but more of a "middle area", such as clarifying his role between both organizations
- Sean wants to be made aware if something related to DoD OIG comes to us
- Sean wants an update on what is going at DoD OIG; Jeff can **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**
- **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** matters that need to be quickly raised.
- Sean gave an example of **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** He does not want **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)**
- **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** Sean wants an awareness about overlapping possibilities.
- Any congressional requests should be carefully evaluated rather than being **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** Consider **Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)** etc.

Jeff

Jeffrey A. Lagda
 Congressional and Media Liaison
 Office of Congressional and Public Affairs - Office of Inspector General
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102
 Washington, DC 20460
 202-566-2584
Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov

Message

From: Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/9/2020 1:54:44 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

Thanks, Tia.

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

- We met with Senate EPW minority on Monday. They asked:
 - How did he get the position? Was it something that the IG asked to do? Who approached him? When?
 - What is the IG's role? – get back regarding role on PRAC
 - Did Fine just term out of the 180 day acting period?
 - How long will tenure be?
 - How will he focus on multiple roles?
- We had a follow up meeting with Senate EPW minority on Tuesday to address their questions. Ben is going to follow up and try to get more details regarding how the timeline/how IG O'Donnell became the IG.

From: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

Hi Tia:

Would you send me your bullets which I will consolidate with mine? Then I'll forward to Eric.

Thanks,

Jeff

From: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

Short on time. Sorry, my 1 on 1 is at 11 AM not 10. I have a meeting with OAE on the report review process from 10-11. I was just hoping for a quick few bullets, nothin fancy.

From: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

Hi Eric:

Can I set up a Microsoft Teams Meeting this morning on this? If so, what time?

Jeff

From: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>

Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:29 AM

To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>

Subject: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

Hey Tia, Jeff – I have my 1 on 1 today at 10. Can you give me a real quick run down on where things stand with open congressional responses, which ones are in the queue, up for front office review? Just a few bullets.

And, is there anything else I need to be aware of/going on congressionally, re Sean being dual hatted as the DoD IG?

Eric

Message

From: Elbaum, Kentia [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ELBAUM, KENTIA]
Sent: 4/7/2020 5:14:14 PM
To: Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]; May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

Okay, I'll check with the staffer.

Tia

From: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 1:14 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

I can join at that time.

Jennifer

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 1:12 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

Are you guys able to join me on a call at 4:45 or so?

Tia, can you set it up with them?

Thanks-
Ben

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:46 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

Ben,

Senate EPW Minority would like to discuss the IG's new role. Please let me know your availability for a teleconference and if there's anyone else that you think should attend.

Thank you,

Tia

From: Eiler, Brian (EPW) <Brian_Eiler@epw.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:42 PM

To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>

Subject: Sean O'Donnell, DOD move - questions

Jeff and Tia,

Good Afternoon. Can we arrange a phone call between the three of us, as soon as possible to discuss Mr. O'Donnell's move to the Department of Defense? I suspect you are as surprised as we are by these developments. My colleagues and I have questions. I'm hoping to get some clarification on today's announcement and sort through what this means for EPA IG.

Thanks and I look forward to chatting,

Brian

Brian C. Eiler
Oversight Counsel (Democratic Staff)
U.S. Senate, Committee on Environment and Public Works

Message

From: Elbaum, Kentia [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ELBAUM, KENTIA]
Sent: 4/7/2020 4:54:29 PM
To: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
CC: Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: EPA IG

Senate approps minority also has questions about the IG's new role. Please see below.

-----Original Message-----

From: Zimmerman, Melissa (Appropriations) <Melissa_Zimmerman@appro.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:52 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: EPA IG

Hi Jeff and Tia,
I'm sure you are overwhelmed with reactions to the big change. But I just wanted to clarify- will Mr O'Donnell remain the EPA IG technically while he is acting at DOD IG? Or will he vacate his EPA IG slot?

Melissa

Message

From: Elbaum, Kentia [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ELBAUM, KENTIA]
Sent: 4/8/2020 2:07:15 PM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: EPA IG Update

Oh, sorry. Just realized what you meant. She's talking about our questions from the teleconference. I'll send you something momentarily.

Tia

From: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 10:00 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: EPA IG Update

Hi Tia:

Would you send me Michal's questions. I am unsure if I accidentally deleted it or was not copied on it.

Thanks.

Jeff

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:12 AM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA IG Update

Ben,

Please see below from Michal.

Thanks,

Tia

From: Freedhoff, Michal (EPW) <Michal.Freedhoff@epw.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Eiler, Brian (EPW) <Brian.Eiler@epw.senate.gov>
Subject: Re: EPA IG Update

Thanks. Any sense for when you might have the answers to our questions?

Michal

Sent from my iPhone

On Apr 8, 2020, at 8:57 AM, Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov> wrote:

Good morning,

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Mr. O'Donnell will serve as both the EPA IG and the acting DoD IG as of this week. Regarding Mr. O'Donnell's role on the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), under the CARES Act, the DoD IG is a member on the PRAC. Mr. Glenn Fine, the prior acting DoD IG, was named to lead the PRAC by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE). By statute under the CARES Act, CIGIE will be responsible for naming a new head of the PRAC.

As you can imagine, all of this developed rather quickly. We'll be sure to keep you updated regarding any further developments.

Please don't hesitate to contact Jeff, Jennifer, Ben, or me if you have any questions.

Tia

Kentia Elbaum
Public Affairs Specialist
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs - Office of Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-2548
Elbaum.Kentia@epa.gov

Message

From: Elbaum, Kentia [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ELBAUM, KENTIA]
Sent: 4/8/2020 2:06:07 PM
To: Jeffrey Lagda (Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov) [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: EPA IG Update

FYI

From: Freedhoff, Michal (EPW) <Michal_Freedhoff@epw.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
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From: Elbaum, Kentia [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=ELBAUM, KENTIA]
Sent: 4/9/2020 1:54:48 PM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
CC: Hanger, Eric [Hanger.Eric@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

Sorry, we met on Tuesday. Then had a follow up meeting yesterday (Wednesday). My dates are all off!

Tia

From: Elbaum, Kentia
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:54 AM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Cc: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

- We met with Senate EPW minority on Monday. They asked:
 - How did he get the position? Was it something that the IG asked to do? Who approached him? When?
 - What is the IG's role? – get back regarding role on PRAC
 - Did Fine just term out of the 180 day acting period?
 - How long will tenure be?
 - How will he focus on multiple roles?
- We had a follow up meeting with Senate EPW minority on Tuesday to address their questions. Ben is going to follow up and try to get more details regarding how the timeline/how IG O'Donnell became the IG.

From: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:46 AM
To: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Cc: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

Hi Tia:

Would you send me your bullets which I will consolidate with mine? Then I'll forward to Eric.

Thanks,

Jeff

From: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

Short on time. Sorry, my 1 on 1 is at 11 AM not 10. I have a meeting with OAE on the report review process from 10-11. I was just hoping for a quick few bullets, nothin fancy.

From: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

Hi Eric:

Can I set up a Microsoft Teams Meeting this morning on this? If so, what time?

Jeff

From: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
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To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

Hey Tia, Jeff – I have my 1 on 1 today at 10. Can you give me a real quick run down on where things stand with open congressional responses, which ones are in the queue, up for front office review? Just a few bullets.

And, is there anything else I need to be aware of/going on congressionally, re Sean being dual hatted as the DoD IG?

Eric

Message

Sent: 4/10/2020 6:07:42 PM
To: [OIG Leadership Committee](#) [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy \(PP\)](#) [@epa.gov](#); [OIG Deputy Assistant Inspectors General](#)
[Ex. 6 Personal Privacy \(PP\)](#) [OIG-HQ-OCPA](#) [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy \(PP\)](#); [May, Benjamin](#)
[\[May.Benjamin@epa.gov\]](#)
Subject: E&E News: Democrats draft legislation to protect IGs from Trump

FYI

E&E News: Democrats draft legislation to protect IGs from Trump

Jeffrey A. Lagda
Congressional and Media Liaison
Office of Congressional and Public Affairs - Office of Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-2584
Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov

FEDERAL AGENCIES

Democrats draft legislation to protect IGs from Trump

[Kelsey Brugger](#), E&E News reporter



Published: Friday, April 10, 2020

House Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney (D-N.Y.) and other committee leaders fired off a letter today on the president's treatment of inspectors general. [Francis Chung/E&E News](#)

House Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney drafted legislation that would prevent the president from removing independent watchdogs without "good cause."

The New York Democrat's bill and accompanying letter from a host of House committee leaders comes after a series of presidential actions that critics see as against inspectors general.

On Monday, President Trump demoted Pentagon IG Glenn Fine and ordered EPA IG Sean O'Donnell to take on the workload, in addition to O'Donnell's existing responsibilities.

Last week, Trump fired intelligence community IG Michael Atkinson, who sent the now-famous whistleblower complaint to Congress that sparked an impeachment inquiry. The president declared Atkinson "is not a big Trump fan."

The president also appointed a White House attorney to be a special inspector general of the Treasury's pandemic recovery (*Greenwire*, April 7).

IGs are appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate but are given considerable leeway to scrutinize federal agency actions.

Maloney accused the president of trying to degrade the independent watchdogs at a time when Congress is appropriating trillions of dollars in response to the coronavirus crisis and needs to ensure adequate oversight.

"Unlike any President in modern history, President Trump has engaged in offensive and unjustified attacks against Inspectors General, criticizing them for following the law, and retaliating against them for telling the truth," they wrote in a letter to Michael Horowitz, chairman of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

The letter said each presidential action on its own would "raise significant concerns." "Together, they reflect a campaign of political retaliation and reward that is antithetical to good government, undermine the proper stewardship of taxpayer dollars, and degrade the federal government's ability to function competently," said the letter.

Maloney's bill, the "Inspector General Independence Act," would limit the grounds for removal to "good cause" conditions, including permanent incapacity; inefficiency; neglect of duty; malfeasance; conviction of a felony; or a conduct involving moral turpitude, gross mismanagement, among other transgressions. She asks Horowitz for input on the proposal.

O'Donnell, the EPA IG confirmed in January, recently grabbed headlines after EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler called on him to scrap a new report on the lack of community outreach to places potentially exposed to a cancer-causing chemical. He refused to do so (*Greenwire*, April 1).

Message

Sent: 4/9/2020 1:36:00 PM
To: Hanger, Eric [Hanger.Eric@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

Okay, we'll provide some bullets. But we had an intense call with Michal about Sean's appointment at

From: Hanger, Eric <Hanger.Eric@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>; Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Quick update before my 1 on 1 at 10 AM

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And, is there anything else I need to be aware of/going on congressionally, re Sean being dual hatted as the DoD IG?

Eric

Message

Sent: 4/8/2020 1:29:26 PM
To: Elbaum, Kentia [elbaum.kentia@epa.gov]
CC: Kaplan, Jennifer [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]; Lagda, Jeffrey [Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: EPA IG Update

Do we want to have a call with her this afternoon?

Near as I can tell, there's really no way we would have the requisite knowledge about

From: Elbaum, Kentia <elbaum.kentia@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 9:12 AM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Kaplan, Jennifer <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>; Lagda, Jeffrey <Lagda.Jeffrey@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: EPA IG Update

Ben,

Please see below from Michal.

Thanks,

Tia

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Subject: Re: EPA IG Update

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Michal

Sent from my iPhone

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As you can imagine, all of this developed rather quickly. We'll be sure to keep you updated regarding any further developments.

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1301 Constitution Ave. NW, Rm 3102
Washington, DC 20460
202-566-2548
Elbaum.Kentia@epa.gov

Message

From: O'Donnell, Sean [ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 3:59:18 PM
To: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Inspector general

Yes, please do. I thought she was out till June.

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:59 AM
To: O'Donnell, Sean <ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Inspector general

Jennifer Kaplan is back today, so I'll put her on it also.

From: O'Donnell, Sean <ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:58 AM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Inspector general

Would you please alert Jeff and Tia to this, copying Eric?

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:57 AM
To: Gunasekara, Mandy <gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov>; O'Donnell, Sean <ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Inspector general

Mandy-

Thanks for the heads-up –

Ben

From: Gunasekara, Mandy <gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:55 AM
To: O'Donnell, Sean <ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Inspector general

FYI this press request is headed to your press shop.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Woods, Andrea" <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>
Date: April 7, 2020 at 11:53:03 AM EDT
To: "Shimmin, Kaitlyn" <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>, "Gunasekara, Mandy" <gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov>
Cc: "Schiermeyer, Corry" <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>, "Grantham, Nancy"

<Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>

Subject: FW: Inspector general

Kaitlyn and Mandy –

Flagging this inquiry for both of you. Kaitlyn, can we confirm this? We can also refer her to the OIG's press office if not.

From: Maxine Joselow <mjoselow@eenews.net>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:47 AM

To: Press <Press@epa.gov>

Subject: Inspector general

Hello,

I'm currently writing an article based on this story from Inside Defense, which states that EPA inspector general Sean O'Donnell will serve as the acting inspector general at the Defense Department in addition to his current responsibilities at EPA:

<https://insidedefense.com/insider/trump-orders-dod-watchdog-sidelined>

I was hoping someone in EPA's press office could confirm this development and provide any additional information. My deadline is technically noon, but if you get me a comment or statement by around 1:30pm, we can update the story to include it.

Thanks,
Maxine

--

Maxine Joselow
E&E News reporter

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

E&E NEWS

122 C Street NW 7th Floor Washington, DC 20001

www.eenews.net | [@EENewsUpdates](https://twitter.com/EENewsUpdates)

Energywire, Climatewire, Greenwire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

Message

From: May, Benjamin [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=9964C4298221472B80D8F0DD44830CD9-MAY, BENJAM]
Sent: 4/7/2020 5:28:01 PM
To: Harvard, Stephanie [Harvard.Stephanie@epa.gov]
CC: Johnson, Tina [Johnson.Tina@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Acting DoD IG

Thanks!

Ben

From: Harvard, Stephanie <Harvard.Stephanie@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:52 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Johnson, Tina <Johnson.Tina@epa.gov>
Subject: RE: Acting DoD IG

Hi Ben,

Our security POC is: Tina Johnson (202) 564-1948.

Let me know if you have additional questions.

Thanks,

Stephanie K. Harvard

Acting HR Director
U.S. EPA-Office of Inspector General
Office of Management
Human Resources Directorate (HRD)
77 W. Jackson Blvd., 13th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604
(312) [redacted] (ph)
(312) [redacted] (cell)

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, re-transmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon, this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you receive this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from the computer.

From: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 07, 2020 11:31 AM
To: Harvard, Stephanie <Harvard.Stephanie@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Acting DoD IG

Stephanie-

Who is the security manager for us to use as a POC? I wasn't sure.

Thanks-
Ben

From: Collins, Gregory, OIG DoD <[Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]@DODIG.MIL>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 12:14 PM
To: May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Cc: Shurgot, Craig D., Maj, OIG DoD <[Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)]@DODIG.MIL>
Subject: Acting DoD IG

May,
My name is Greg Collins and I'm Personnel Security Program Manager for DoD OIG. I'm contacting you to get a Security POC for Mr. Sean O'Donnell. I'm in the process of working his security clearance transfer to DoD. Thanks

v/r
Gregory D. Collins, SFPC
Personnel Security Program Manager
DoD Office of the Inspector General
4800 Mark Center Drive, Suite 09B24
Alexandria, VA 22350-1500
(703) [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] Office)
(571) [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] fax)

This e-mail is from the Office of the Inspector General, Department of Defense, and may contain information that is "Law Enforcement Sensitive" {LES} or "For Official Use Only" {FOUO} or otherwise subject to the Privacy Act and/or legal and or other privileges that restrict release without appropriate legal authority.

Message

From: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 3:57:55 PM
To: O'Donnell, Sean [ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Inspector general

indeed

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Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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www.eenews.net | [@EENewsUpdates](https://twitter.com/EENewsUpdates)

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Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

E&E NEWS

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Message

From: O'Donnell, Sean [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DC164F3F86C14B0E90C6D19D5F90AE2C-ODONNELL, S]
Sent: 4/7/2020 3:15:28 PM
To: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Message from Acting DoD IG Sean O'Donnell

-----Original Message-----

From: Stebbins, Steven A., SES, OIG DoD [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] <DODIG.MIL>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 10:55 AM
To: List .All Users [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] <DODIG.MIL>
Cc: O'Donnell, Sean <ODONNELL.Sean@epa.gov>
Subject: Message from Acting DoD IG Sean O'Donnell

All,

It is an honor to serve as the acting Inspector General of the Department of Defense's Office of Inspector General. Over the last four years, the OIG has become renowned throughout the IG community, and the whole government, for the quality of its nonpartisan, independent, and objective oversight. This is in no small part due to the hard work of Principal Deputy Inspector General Glenn Fine and his leadership team. It is also due to each and every one of you. Your commitment to the office's mission is remarkable, as evidenced by, among other things, the number of important and consequential reports and audits you have produced, and are producing, during the coronavirus pandemic. I understand that this is a sudden change during challenging times. My commitment to you is to work with PDIG Fine to minimize distractions and continue your good work.

We will speak again soon. Until then, I would ask of you the same favor I ask my colleagues at the EPA's Office of Inspector General: please prioritize the health and safety of you and your family. In the coming weeks and months, as America deals with this pandemic and its consequences, the Office will have much work to do.

Take care and be safe.

Sean O'Donnell

Message

From: O'Donnell, Sean [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DC164F3F86C14B0E90C6D19D5F90AE2C-ODONNELL, S]
Sent: 4/7/2020 10:42:07 AM
To: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Contact information and thank you

What do you think of that proposed email to the DoD office?

From: O'Donnell, Sean
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 6:41 AM
To: Fine, Glenn A., SES, OIG DoD <[REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>
Subject: RE: Contact information and thank you

Glenn,

Thanks again for your help. I appreciate your willingness to send an email to the office announcing the change. Along with, or shortly after, your email, I would like to begin the process of introducing myself to the office. I was thinking something like this, either in the body of your email or shortly afterward:

All,

It is an honor to serve as the acting Inspector General of the Department of Defense's Office of Inspector General. Over the last four years, the OIG has become renowned throughout the IG community, and the whole government, for the quality of its nonpartisan, independent, and objective oversight. This is in no small part due to the hard work of Principal Deputy Inspector General Glenn Fine and his leadership team. It is also due to each and every one of you. Your commitment to the office's mission is remarkable, as evidenced by, among other things, the number of important and consequential reports and audits you have produced, and are producing, during the coronavirus pandemic. I understand that this is a sudden change during challenging times. My commitment to you is to work with PDIG Fine to minimize distractions and continue your good work.

We will speak again soon. Until then, I would ask of you the same favor I ask my colleagues at the EPA's Office of Inspector General: please prioritize the health and safety of you and your family. In the coming weeks and months, as America deals with this pandemic and its consequences, the Office will have much work to do.

Take care and be safe.

Thoughts? I am happy to discuss.

Sean O'Donnell

From: O'Donnell, Sean
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2020 6:22 PM
To: Fine, Glenn A., SES, OIG DoD <[REDACTED]@DODIG.MIL>
Subject: Contact information and thank you

Glenn,

Thank you for speaking with me. As I said, it is important to me that we have a productive relationship. My email address is odonnell.sean@epa.gov and my mobile telephone number is Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) tomorrow I am available from 9 am to 10 am, 11 am to 1:30 pm, and then after the 2:30 pm CIGIE call.

Thanks again, and have a great evening.

Sean O'Donnell

Sean O'Donnell
Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (MC:2410T)
Washington, DC 20460

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) (M)

Message

From: O'Donnell, Sean [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DC164F3F86C14B0E90C6D19D5F90AE2C-ODONNELL, S]
Sent: 4/9/2020 10:31:08 PM
To: Gilbride, Patrick [Gilbride.Patrick@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Quarterly meeting with RA/DRA

Thanks, Pat. Stay safe and healthy.

From: Gilbride, Patrick <Gilbride.Patrick@epa.gov>
Sent: Thursday, April 9, 2020 5:59 PM
To: O'Donnell, Sean <ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov>; Sheehan, Charles <Sheehan.Charles@epa.gov>; Shields, Edward <Shields.Ed@epa.gov>; Butler, Kathlene <Butler.Kathlene@epa.gov>; El-Zoghbi, Christine <El-Zoghbi.Christine@epa.gov>
Subject: Quarterly meeting with RA/DRA

Hi All – Hope your doing well. I had my quarterly meeting with the RA/DRA today by phone. (Sean, so you are aware, some of the POCs meet with the RA/DRA separately to provide updates and discuss goings on. Some attend SLT meetings.)

New OIG Projects and updates–

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

For the OIG

We have a new IG – Sean O'Donnell. Sean comes to EPA from DOJ. Has also been asked to act as the IG for DOD until confirmation of the DOD IG nominee. He will be coming out at some point and would like to meet with both of you. They welcome the visit and look forward to meeting you.

What challenges are you facing with COVID and stay at home orders?

Cybersecurity – with everyone working remotely and using various tools to communicate there is concern on relaying

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Enforcement Guidance –

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Ex. 5 Deliberative Process (DP)

Pat

*Patrick Gilbride
Director, Environmental Research Programs
U.S. EPA, Office of Inspector General
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO. 80202
303-312-6969*

Message

From: O'Donnell, Sean [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DC164F3F86C14B0E90C6D19D5F90AE2C-ODONNELL, S]
Sent: 4/7/2020 3:56:44 PM
To: Gunasekara, Mandy [gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov]; May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Inspector general

Thank you for sharing this.

From: Gunasekara, Mandy <gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:55 AM
To: O'Donnell, Sean <ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov>; May, Benjamin <May.Benjamin@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Inspector general

FYI this press request is headed to your press shop.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Woods, Andrea" <Woods.Andrea@epa.gov>
Date: April 7, 2020 at 11:53:03 AM EDT
To: "Shimmin, Kaitlyn" <shimmin.kaitlyn@epa.gov>, "Gunasekara, Mandy" <gunasekara.Mandy@epa.gov>
Cc: "Schiermeyer, Corry" <schiermeyer.corry@epa.gov>, "Grantham, Nancy" <Grantham.Nancy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Inspector general

Kaitlyn and Mandy –

Flagging this inquiry for both of you. Kaitlyn, can we confirm this? We can also refer her to the OIG's press office if not.

From: Maxine Joselow <mjoselow@eenews.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 11:47 AM
To: Press <Press@epa.gov>
Subject: Inspector general

Hello,

I'm currently writing an article based on this story from Inside Defense, which states that EPA inspector general Sean O'Donnell will serve as the acting inspector general at the Defense Department in addition to his current responsibilities at EPA:

<https://insidedefense.com/insider/trump-orders-dod-watchdog-sidelined>

I was hoping someone in EPA's press office could confirm this development and provide any additional information. My deadline is technically noon, but if you get me a comment or statement by around 1:30pm, we can update the story to include it.

Thanks,
Maxine

--

Maxine Joselow
E&E News reporter

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

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Energywire, Climatewire, Greenwire, E&E Daily, E&E News PM

Message

From: O'Donnell, Sean [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=DC164F3F86C14B0E90C6D19D5F90AE2C-ODONNELL, S]
Sent: 4/7/2020 3:18:29 PM
To: May, Benjamin [May.Benjamin@epa.gov]
Subject: FW: Acting IG

From: Stebbins, Steven A., SES, OIG DoD [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] @DODIG.MIL>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 10:51 AM
To: O'Donnell, Sean <ODonnell.Sean@epa.gov>
Cc: Fine, Glenn A., SES, OIG DoD [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] @DODIG.MIL>
Subject: FW: Acting IG

Mr. O'Donnell, forwarding FYI.

From: Fine, Glenn A., SES, OIG DoD [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] @DODIG.MIL>
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 10:13 AM
To: List .All Users [Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)] @DODIG.MIL>
Subject: Acting IG

To all OIG employees:

As I noted in my e-mail yesterday morning, on Friday evening, the White House announced the President's intent to nominate Jason Abend for the position of DoD Inspector General.

Yesterday, the President sent his nomination to the Senate.

I also wanted to let you know that I learned yesterday afternoon that the President has designated Sean W. O'Donnell, the Environmental Protection Agency Inspector General (EPA IG), to be dual hatted as the Acting DoD IG in addition to his current duties as the EPA IG.

It is my understanding that Mr. O'Donnell's appointment became effective yesterday. Mr. O'Donnell called me yesterday and discussed his appointment. I know that he will also be sending you an email shortly.

I also wanted to let you know that I remain the Principal Deputy Inspector General as we continue to work to achieve the important mission of the DoD OIG.

We all need to support Mr. O'Donnell in his role as the Acting DoD IG and remain focused on the important work of the office.

Mr. O'Donnell's biography is available at the EPA OIG website: https://www.epa.gov/office-inspector-general/about-epas-office-inspector-general#IG_bio.

Thank you again for your continued commitment and dedication.

Please stay safe and healthy.

Glenn

Message

From: Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov [Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov]
Sent: 4/7/2020 3:40:41 PM
Subject: Fwd: IG O'Donnell new appointment

Good morning, Ben,

I am the deputy for OCPA (position in which Jeff Lagda has been acting) **Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)** I look forward to "meeting" you if only virtually for the time being.

I just received the press inquiry below. Are you okay with my providing confirmation?

Thank you.

Jennifer

Jennifer Kaplan
Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) mobile

Begin forwarded message:

From: Connor O'Brien <cobrien@politico.com>
Date: April 7, 2020 at 11:05:49 AM EDT
To: "Kaplan, Jennifer" <Kaplan.Jennifer@epa.gov>
Subject: IG O'Donnell new appointment

Hi Jennifer,
I was told the president has appointed Sean O'Donnell, the EPA IG, to be dual hatted as Acting Defense Department IG in addition to his current duties at the EPA.

Any chance you can confirm this appointment? Thanks.
Connor

Connor O'Brien
Senior Defense Reporter
POLITICO

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) m)
cobrien@politico.com
[@connorbrienNH](https://twitter.com/connorbrienNH)