

News Release



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EPA OIG Pauses Program Evaluation of Gold King Mine Spill, Continues Criminal Investigation

WASHINGTON – Due to high public interest in the Gold King Mine release of water containing heavy metals into a tributary to the Animas River in August 2015, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General (OIG) today posted to its website letters recently sent to congressional members regarding the status of the OIG’s related work.

Based on requests from several members of the House and Senate, the OIG is conducting both a program evaluation and a criminal investigation of the Gold King Mine spill.

In letters to those members, the OIG noted, “[T]here is investigative material that we cannot reveal in any report about our program evaluation until the investigation reaches a point where the U.S. Department of Justice and the EPA’s OIG’s Office of Investigations inform us that we may do so. Many of your questions to us, including those that go to the heart of what you asked us to address, directly implicate and will have to be answered in part by investigative results that are not currently releasable.”

Therefore, the OIG plans to finalize the program evaluation report once it can incorporate investigative results. Please note that the OIG’s criminal investigation of the Gold King Mine spill is still ongoing.

For more information, read the congressional [letters](#) (which reference other recipients) or contact the OIG.

The OIG is an independent office within the EPA that performs audits, program evaluations and investigations of the EPA and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), and their contractors, and prevents and detects fraud, waste and abuse. By helping the EPA and the CSB operate more economically, effectively and efficiently, the OIG contributes to solving problems that ultimately result in making America a cleaner and healthier place. For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/oig> and follow the OIG on Twitter at @EPAoig (<https://twitter.com/EPAoig>).

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