

News Release



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Arthur A. Elkins Jr. to vacate EPA inspector general position

WASHINGTON – Arthur A. Elkins Jr. today announced that he will retire from federal service effective close of business Oct. 12, vacating the inspector general position at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Elkins has been the IG for both the EPA and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board since June 25, 2010.

“It has been my great honor and privilege to serve the American people in this role for more than eight years,” said Elkins. “I am grateful for the outstanding team of auditors, investigators and other professionals who comprise the Office of Inspector General, and for the opportunity to have earned the trust of a wide array of stakeholders relying on the integrity of the OIG’s independence.”

Prior to this appointment, Elkins was associate general counsel in the EPA’s Office of General Counsel, chief legal officer and general counsel for the Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency, counsel to the inspector general of the National Science Foundation, and counsel within the U.S. Department of Defense’s Office of Hearings and Appeals. Before entering federal service, Elkins was an assistant prosecuting attorney in the Ohio Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office and an assistant public defender in the Ohio Cuyahoga County Public Defender's Office.

Elkins has accepted a new position outside of the federal government. His new employer is expected to announce the details soon.

Following Elkins’ departure from the OIG, Charles J. Sheehan, currently the deputy inspector general, will serve as the acting inspector general. Before coming to the OIG in April 2012, Sheehan served as a judge on the EPA’s Environmental Appeals Board, as the regional counsel for EPA Region 6, as general counsel of the U.S.-Mexico Border Environment Cooperation Commission and as a trial attorney in the U.S. Department of Justice, mostly with the Environment and Natural Resources Division.

The EPA inspector general is appointed by the president and confirmed by the Senate. Under the Inspector General Act, the incumbent must be selected without regard to political affiliation. Unlike most presidential appointees, inspectors general do not leave these positions when a new president takes office.

The OIG is an independent office within the EPA that performs audits and investigations of the EPA and the CSB, and prevents and detects fraud, waste and abuse. For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/oig>, follow the OIG on Twitter at @EPAoig and view video coverage of topics related to the OIG’s work at youtube.com/epaoig.

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