



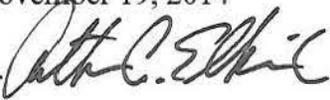
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC - 5 2014

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Memorandum of November 25, 2014, on OIG Report No. 15-N-0025, *Early Warning Report: Some EPA Employees Found to Be on Paid Administrative Leave for Years*, Issued November 19, 2014

FROM: Arthur A. Elkins Jr. 

TO: Nanci Gelb, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Administration and Resources Management

This response addresses your memorandum of November 25, 2014, in connection with the subject early warning report. As provided in the Inspector General Act, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) performs audits of activities relating to programs and operations of the agency. The early warning report is based entirely on information received from the agency's payroll system, and it is factually accurate.

This report shows cases of extreme administrative leave over long periods of time. We issued our early warning report before the conclusion of the entire audit, because we considered these matters to require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) immediate attention. Current agency guidance does allow for administrative leave under certain circumstances. Determining whether the amount of time was reasonable was neither within the scope nor the objective of the OIG's ongoing audit on the agency's time and attendance.

We appreciate the comments provided and will incorporate them, along with any additional information that you may provide, into our final audit report on the EPA's time and attendance. The final time and attendance audit report will include any findings and recommendations we may have in connection with administrative leave.

Thank you for your continued attention to the information in the early warning report. If you have any questions or wish to discuss any of the information in this report, please contact Kevin Christensen at (202) 566-1007 or christensen.kevin@epa.gov.