

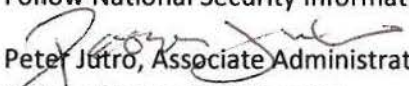


UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF THE
ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Office of Inspector General's Report 14-P-0017, EPA Does Not Adequately Follow National Security Information Classification Standards

FROM: 
Peter Jutro, Associate Administrator (Acting)
Office of Homeland Security

DATE: July 2, 2014

TO: Arthur Elkins, Jr., Inspector General

Thank you for your final report dated November 15, 2013. Attached to this memorandum, please find the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's planned corrective action and completion dates for the following recommendation:

- Work with the Assistant Administrator for OARM to develop a transparent process for approving classification guides within 30 days specified in EO 13526.

We will implement the suggestions as stated in the attached plan.

I appreciate your efforts to work with us on these issues. I believe that implementing the recommendation will benefit the Agency.

Attachment

AO/ OHS Plan for Addressing OIG Recommendation from “EPA Does Not Adequately Follow National Security Information Classifications Standards

I. Background

On November 15, 2013, the EPA Office of Inspector General completed its report on how EPA follows National Security Information classification standards. The report concluded with the following recommendation for AO/ OHS:

1. Work with the Assistant Administrator for OARM to develop a transparent process for approving classification guides within 30 days specified in EO 13526.

II. Definitions

EO 13526 requires that a classification decision on a potentially classified document is made within 30 days. EO 13526 does not mandate that a process to review a classification guide must be developed in 30 days. Once developed, the AO/OHS process for reviewing and if appropriate, approving classification guides will incorporate a 30 day requirement.

III. Developing a transparent process for reviewing and if appropriate, recommending a classification guide for approval

OHS proposes to work with OARM to develop a transparent process for reviewing, and if appropriate recommending a classification guide for approval. OHS will develop a draft approach that will be shared with OARM for their review and comment. OHS and OARM will work cooperatively to resolve any issues or concerns. Once comments and concerns have been addressed, OHS will finalize a written process for classification guide review / approval.

IV. Relevant Issues

See Section II Definitions above.

V. Milestone Dates

- A. July 30 - OHS Transmits draft Process to OARM
- B. August 29 - OARM provides OHS with comments / concerns
- C. September 30 - OHS finalizes the Classification Guide Review / Approval process