

Press Statement



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Inspector General
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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Statement of Inspector General Arthur A. Elkins, Jr., on the Office of Inspector General (OIG) report *Early Warning Report: Main EPA Headquarters Warehouse in Landover, Maryland, Requires Immediate EPA Attention*:

“Our early warning report raises significant concerns regarding the agency’s lack of oversight of the personal property and facility space at the EPA’s warehouse in Landover, Maryland. This warehouse has an average annual cost of \$1,669,230, which includes a lease cost of \$750,000 and contractor costs of \$919,230.

Some of our findings included: numerous security and safety hazards existed, including unsecured personally identifiable information; the warehouse recordkeeping system was incomplete and inaccurate; the warehouse was filled with considerable amounts of unusable, inoperable, and obsolete furniture and other items; and the warehouse contained multiple unauthorized and hidden personal spaces.

As a result of our findings, we are conducting an additional, comprehensive audit at other selected warehouse spaces.

My office will continue its efforts to prevent and detect fraud, waste and abuse in the EPA’s programs and operations. If the OIG does not provide this level of transparency into agency programs and operations, who will?”

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Please visit the OIG’s website at <http://www.epa.gov/oig> for more information.