



**OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR


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Memorandum

To: Lawrence S. Roberts
Acting Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs

Jack R. Stevens
Acting Director, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development

Michael S. Black
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

From: Jeff Carlson 
Director, Energy Audits Unit

Subject: Closeout Memorandum – Evaluation of the Office of Indian Energy and
Economic Development
Assignment No. 2015-EAU-078

This memorandum is to advise you of the Office of Inspector General's decision to terminate our evaluation of the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED).

We began our evaluation in July 2015, with the objective to assess whether IEED is achieving its mission related to energy and minerals. We suspended our work to complete a time sensitive assignment involving another bureau.

Once we completed the assignment, we prepared to resume our IEED evaluation. We learned, however, that the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) had been conducting a comprehensive audit of energy development on Indian lands, which included IEED. To learn more, we contacted GAO to discuss their objective and scope, and to discuss their initial findings and expected report issuance date.

GAO informed us that they intend their audit objective to answer two questions:

1. To what extent have key Federal agencies and select tribes taken steps to address factors that may hinder Indian energy development, and what have been the results of these efforts?
2. To what extent do Federal agencies collaborate to assist tribes with development of Indian energy resources, and what have been the results of these efforts?

GAO's audit scope involves multiple Federal agencies, including IEED. During its audit, GAO stated that it extensively covered various programs and operations of IEED, including subject areas that we had intended to address upon resumption of work. Specific subject areas

consisted of the proposed Indian Service Center, grant administration, and performance metrics. Based on our conversations, we expect GAO to report on these identified areas. GAO is presently in the report writing phase, with report issuance expected this summer.

Conclusion

We concluded that our areas of emphasis on IEED would encompass work presently being accomplished by GAO, making further work on our evaluation unnecessary at this time. Accordingly, to avoid duplication of audit work, we are terminating our IEED evaluation.

I would like to express my appreciation to IEED managers and staff for their cooperation and assistance during this review. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at 303-236-9107.