

# **Summary: Investigation of Current and Former Bureau of Land Management Employees**

**Report Date: May 19, 2014**

OIG investigated allegations that three BLM employees misused their official positions for personal gain. The three employees—a petroleum-engineering technician (PET) and two geologists (one of whom has since left BLM)—allegedly manipulated communitization agreements (agreements to pool smaller plots of Federal and private land for the purpose of sharing in drilling and producing oil) for personal gain by sharing information with outside parties about unleased land within the pooled areas. It was also alleged that the PET pressured an oil and gas company, Chesapeake Energy, into hiring his stepson, and that he misreported his assets on Office of Government Ethics Form 450 (“Confidential Financial Disclosure Report”).

Our investigation did not reveal any evidence to support the allegations that these employees manipulated the communitization agreements or shared information regarding unleased land with anyone. We were also unable to substantiate that the PET coerced Chesapeake Energy into hiring his stepson. We did find, however, that the PET failed to disclose reportable information regarding royalty interest on his Form 450 for the year 2010.

We provided this report to BLM for any action deemed appropriate. In response, BLM issued a letter of counseling to the PET for his failure to accurately report his held assets.

*This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued internally to the U.S. Department of the Interior. This summary was posted to the web on October 19, 2015.*

