

# **Summary: Investigation of a U.S. Geological Survey Employee for a Prohibited Personal Interest in a Mine**

**Report Date: June 6, 2014**

OIG investigated a U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) research chemist in Wellsboro, PA, after receiving an allegation that the chemist had signed a lease with a gas company for mining interests on his personal property, in violation of the Prohibited Interests in Mining regulation restricting USGS employees from direct or indirect financial interests in private mining activities.

Our investigation confirmed the existence of a gas lease on the employee's property and his failure to disclose it. We referred this administrative ethics matter to USGS for resolution. On February 19, 2015, the employee was counseled for failing to disclose the lease and instructed to either apply for a waiver of the regulation or sell his interest in the lease.

*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 August 20, 2015.*

