




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

June 11, 2013

Memorandum

To: Eric Eisenstein
Division Chief, Internal Control and Audit Follow-up
Office of Financial Management

From: Michael P. Colombo 
Western Regional Manager for Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations

Subject: Verification Review of Recommendations for the Flash Report, "Fish and Wildlife Service: Jackson National Fish Hatchery In Need of Immediate Action" (C-IN-FWS-0009-2007, May 2007)
Report No. WR-VS-FWS-0011-2013

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Inspector General (OIG) has completed a verification review of the two recommendations presented in the subject flash report. The objective of the verification was to determine whether the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) implemented the recommendations as reported to the Office of Financial Management (PFM), Office of Policy, Management, and Budget. PFM reported to OIG when FWS had addressed and provided supporting documentation for both recommendations in the subject report. Based on our review, we determined that Recommendation 1 is unresolved and Recommendation 2 is resolved and implemented.

Background

Our May 2007 flash report, "Fish and Wildlife Service: Jackson National Fish Hatchery In Need of Immediate Action," contained two recommendations pertaining to the safety of DOI employees.

FWS agreed with both recommendations and provided its plan of action in a memorandum dated June 15, 2007. Based on this memorandum, we considered both recommendations resolved but not implemented. On September 30, 2010, PFM notified us that Recommendations 1 and 2 were closed.

Scope and Methodology

The scope of this review was limited to determining whether FWS took action to implement our recommendations. To accomplish our objective, we reviewed the supporting documentation that FWS provided and discussed actions taken relating to both recommendations.

We did not perform any site visits or conduct fieldwork to determine whether FWS had corrected the underlying deficiencies that we initially identified. As a result, this review was not conducted in accordance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States or the Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation of the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

Results of Review

We determined that Recommendation 1 is unresolved and Recommendation 2 is resolved and implemented.

Recommendation 1: Protect the lives of DOI employees by prohibiting access to the unsafe buildings.

In 2010, FWS completed a new hatchery building and moved all work activities into the building. According to an internal memorandum on March 20, 2013, however, FWS is still using areas of the former hatchery to store equipment. In our original report, we determined that the hatchery was unsafe for employees. Currently, employees are allowed to access buildings under very restricted conditions and for short periods to access this equipment.

Based on our review of documents, we conclude that Recommendation 1 is unresolved and should be reopened for tracking by PFM. To meet the requirements of the recommendation, FWS must prohibit employee access to all unsafe buildings, regardless of how restricted or short the access time may be.

Recommendation 2: Ensure that resources are made available so the Jackson National Fish Hatchery and storage buildings can be designed and constructed.

FWS' audit liaison provided the contract issued to construct the new fish hatchery building and the final payment and closeout documents for the contract. Construction on the new fish hatchery building began in April 2009 and was completed in August 2010.

Based on information provided by the audit liaison and our review of documents, we conclude that Recommendation 2 has been resolved and implemented.

Conclusion

We informed FWS officials of the results of this review at an exit conference on May 2, 2013. FWS officials agreed with the results of our review.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact me at 916-978-5653.

cc: Nancy Thomas, Liaison Officer, Office of Financial Management
Sharon Blake, Liaison Officer, Office of Financial Management
Katherine Garrity, Audit Liaison Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service