

For Immediate Release November 7, 2023 For Information Contact Erica Paulson (202) 208-4357

23 Interior OIG Employees Honored by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency

Today, the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) honored 23 individuals from the Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of Inspector General (OIG) at the 26th Annual CIGIE Awards Ceremony. Each year, the annual awards honor exceptional work across the Federal inspector general community from the prior year.

"I am so proud of our office's work that CIGIE is honoring today," said Inspector General Mark Lee Greenblatt. "Our award-winning teams and individuals have produced groundbreaking oversight that, in many cases, is relevant not only to the Department of the Interior, but across the entire Federal government. These awards reflect the great work occurring throughout our office and the significant value that we add for American taxpayers."

This year's DOI OIG award winners are:

The Wildlife and Sport Fish Recreation Team's Review of Unfunded Pension Liabilities

This team is receiving the Audit Award for Excellence in recognition of its exemplary efforts in identifying a State's use of grant funds to pay retiree unfunded liabilities, thereby reducing the funding available to accomplish Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration efforts. Read the result of this team's efforts in DOI OIG report, <u>Unfunded Liabilities for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program Grants</u>.

Nicki Miller, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations Colleen Kotzmoyer, Director
Patrick O'Boyle, Deputy Director
Johanna Lasen, Auditor
Matthew Siebert, Evaluator
Jennifer Wilbers, Auditor
Julianne Cochran, Writer-Editor
Sidrah Miraaj-Raza, Attorney
Jon Pifer, Attorney

The U.S. Department of the Interior Password Complexity Inspection Team

This team is receiving the Inspections Award for Excellence in recognition of developing an innovative approach that identified significant enterprisewide weaknesses in the DOI's password and user account management practices. Read this team's work in the report, <u>P@s\$w0rds at the U.S. Department of the Interior: Easily Cracked Passwords, Lack of Multifactor Authentication, and Other Failures Put Critical DOI Systems at Risk or watch a video about their findings.</u>

Jefferson Gilkeson, Director Ted Dykstra, Deputy Director Jennifer Fedewa, Cybersecurity and Technology Inspector Lizz Pena-Fletcher, Cybersecurity and Technology Inspector Jennifer Fonken, Cybersecurity and Technology Inspector Deanna Masterson, Writer-Editor

Inspection of DOI's Bureaus' Analyses of Effective Royalty Rates

This team is receiving the Inspections Award for Excellence in recognition of its <u>complex review</u> establishing that the DOI does not analyze effective royalty rates for Federal oil and gas and that such analysis is critical for effective program management.

Amy Billings, Director Colleen Kotzmoyer, Deputy Director Paul Burns, Auditor Joseph Randolph, Auditor Julianne Cochran, Writer-Editor

Peter Sima-Eichler, PACE Data Team

The Director of DOI OIG's Data Analytics Unit, Peter Sima-Eichler, is part of a multiagency team receiving the CIGIE Award for Excellence in Multiple Disciplines in recognition of its strategic use of data to assist the OIG community with risk-based oversight and accountability. In addition to staff of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC), the award-winning team includes critical investigative and data analytics experts from the DOI and SBA OIGs.

Troy Dopke, Disaster Preparedness for Federal Agencies Team

Members of CIGIE's Disaster Assistance Working Group, including DOI OIG employee Troy Dopke, are receiving an Audit Award for Excellence in recognition of the group's initiative to inform Federal agencies and Congress of seven OIGs' reported findings and recommendations in preparing for and responding to disasters to help avoid future program challenges. Led by HUD OIG, the team includes individuals from DOI OIG, DOD OIG, HHS OIG, DHS OIG, DOT OIG, and SBA OIG.

Members of the Agile Oversight Forum Team

This multiagency team is receiving the CIGIE Award for Excellence in Multiple Disciplines in recognition of its efforts to execute a first-of-its kind learning event focused on best practices in agile oversight through the January 2023 Agile Oversight Forum. In addition to PRAC staff, the award-winning team includes nearly 40 other colleagues from Federal, State, and local oversight entities. Five employees from DOI OIG's Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations were honored with this award:

Kathleen Sedney, Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations Nicki Miller, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Inspections and Evaluations Chris Stubbs, Director Eric Atkinson, Deputy Director Troy Dopke, Deputy Director

For more information about CIGIE and the role of Inspectors General in promoting efficiency and effectiveness and addressing fraud, waste, and abuse, visit the CIGIE website at www.ignet.gov.

For more information about DOI OIG, visit www.doioig.gov.