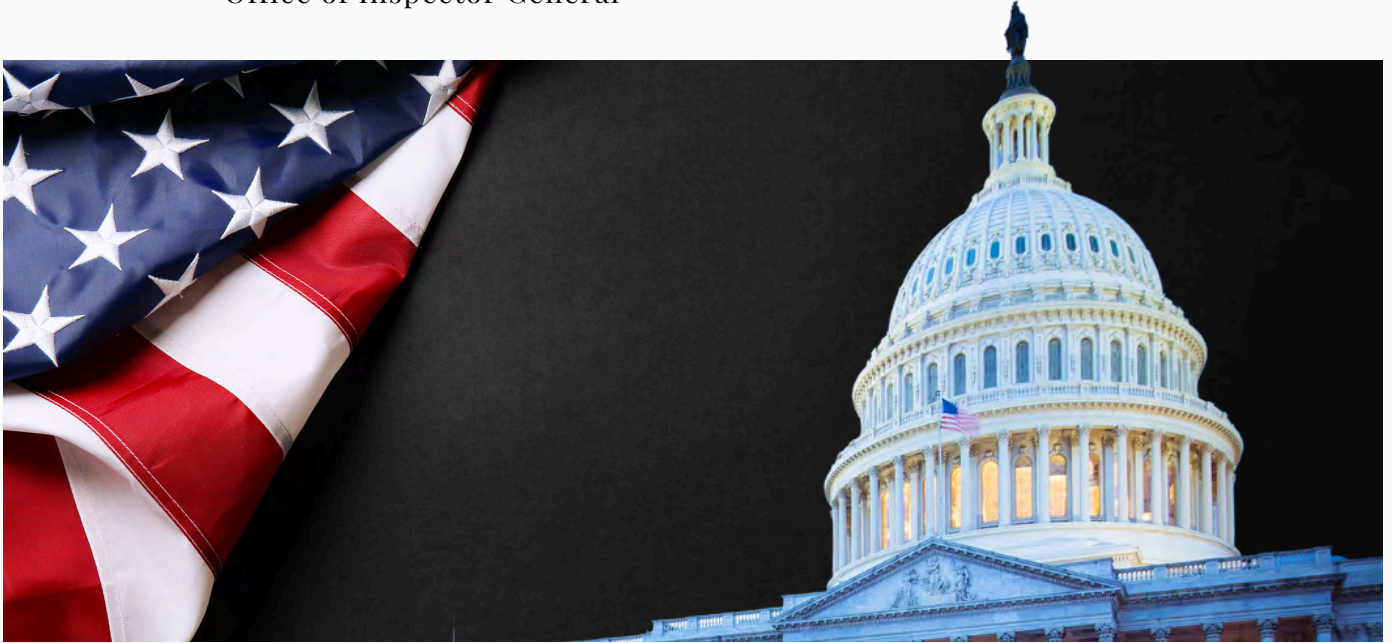




# The Oversight Report

Your source for the latest updates from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Inspector General



## *Message from the Acting Inspector General*

CARYL BRZYMIALKIEWICZ



I am pleased to present the second edition of the Department of the Interior Office of Inspector General (DOI OIG) congressional newsletter. This publication aggregates information about our office's recent oversight work and highlights issues of potential interest for our congressional stakeholders.

We safeguard taxpayer dollars, report publicly on our oversight findings, and provide actionable recommendations to promote accountability, integrity, economy, efficiency, and effectiveness within the Department of the Interior. To that end, this edition of the newsletter includes our 2025 audit, inspection, and evaluation work plan and associated risk areas. We also share recent testimony by our Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations at a hearing of the House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations regarding the OIG's work addressing conditions at Bureau of Indian Education-funded and -operated schools.

As a reminder, our [Recommendations Dashboard](#) provides an accessible, one-stop location for stakeholders to track important information related to our open recommendations.

We appreciate ongoing congressional interest in and support for our oversight mission.

## *What Is DOI OIG?*

The beginning of a new Congress often brings new staff to congressional committees. We want to take this opportunity to communicate more about who we are and what we do.

We are the U.S. Department of the Interior Office of Inspector General or DOI OIG. We conduct fair, objective, and independent oversight of programs and operations within the Department of the Interior to promote accountability, positive change, and awareness. This video provides a one-minute overview of our office and mission.



## *Our 2025 Oversight Plan*

Our Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations has published its [2025 Oversight Plan](#). Using a risk-based, tiered approach, AIE developed a plan that focuses our oversight on areas that will yield the most positive results for American taxpayers.

The Oversight Plan, which is subject to available resources, staffing, and emerging priorities, covers nine risk areas.

1. Contract and Financial Assistance Oversight
2. Cybersecurity
3. Environmental Impact
4. Health and Safety
5. Land Management
6. Tribal Nations and Insular Communities
7. Data Availability and Quality
8. Payment Integrity
9. Revenue Collection





## Recognizing Our Award-Winning Staff

The **Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE)** is an independent entity that supports and oversees Federal Inspectors General. Each year, CIGIE presents awards to recognize outstanding achievements in audits, investigations, evaluations, and other oversight work that strengthens Federal programs and combats fraud, waste, and abuse.

This year, CIGIE recognized the evaluation team behind our report on the [Land and Water Conservation Fund State Side Program](#).

CIGIE also included one of our employees in the Barry R. Snyder Joint Award for Excellence for his exemplary collaboration with a cross-functional team across multiple OIGs that enhanced the CIGIE Training Institute's Introductory Auditor course.

In addition, our Assistant Inspector General for Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations **Kathleen Sedney** received an **AGA National Leadership Award** for contributions toward promoting excellence in government financial management, high ethical standards, and innovative management procedures.

## Oversight Work Issued Since Our Last Newsletter

### DECEMBER

Audit | *Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grants Awarded to the State of North Carolina, Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Marine Fisheries, by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* | [link](#)

Inspection | *The U.S. Department of the Interior Should Take Action to Fully Implement Its Enterprise Risk Management Capability* | [link](#)

Inspection | *The Bureau of Indian Education Must Correct Safety and Health Deficiencies and Improve Facility Management System Accuracy at Tate Topa Tribal School* | [link](#)

Other | *Flash Report: The National Park Service's First Amendment Permit Process* | [link](#)

Other | *The Office of Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations Oversight Plan for 2025* | [link](#)

Audit | *U.S. Department of the Interior Bureaus Must Improve Federal Oil and Gas Internal Controls To Ensure Oversight of Financial Risks to the Government From Bankruptcies* | [link](#)

Audit | *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grants Awarded to the State of Washington Under the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program* | [link](#)

Evaluation | *The Orphaned Wells Program Office Needs to Improve Its Oversight of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding to States* | [link](#)

### JANUARY

Audit | *Independent Auditors' Report on the U.S. Department of the Interior's Financial Statements for Fiscal Years 2024 and 2023* | [link](#)

Audit | *Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grants Awarded to the State of North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* | [link](#)

Investigation | *Company Used Gas from Federal Lease for Cryptomining Without Authorization* | [link](#)

Other | *Office of Inspector General's 2024 Organizational Assessment* | [link](#)

Other | *Progress Made by the U.S. Department of the Interior in Implementing Government Charge Card Recommendations, Fiscal Year 2024* | [link](#)

### FEBRUARY

Management Advisory | *Risks Identified with a Bureau of Indian Education Contractor* | [link](#)

Management Advisory | *Risks Identified for U.S. Department of the Interior Grants Awarded to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources* | [link](#)

Audit | *Indian Affairs Still Needs To Improve Management of BIA-Funded and/or -Operated Detention Programs* | [link](#)

Audit | *Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Grants Awarded to the District of Columbia by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service* | [link](#)

Audit | *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Orphaned Well Initial Grant Awarded to the State of Texas, Railroad Commission of Texas* | [link](#)

## *Recent Congressional Testimony*



On February 12, our Assistant Inspector General (AIG) for Audits, Inspections, and Evaluations **Kathleen Sedney** testified before the House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

In the hearing, titled “[Leaving Indian Children Behind: Reviewing the State of BIE Schools](#),” AIG Sedney discussed our work addressing Bureau of Indian Education-funded and -operated schools and detailed results from some of our recent reports that identified concerns related to management, maintenance, and repairs.

We look forward to continued engagement with our congressional stakeholders regarding these important and timely oversight matters.

[Read AIG Sedney's testimony](#), or [view a recording of the hearing here](#).



# OIG's Recommendation Tracking and Follow-Up

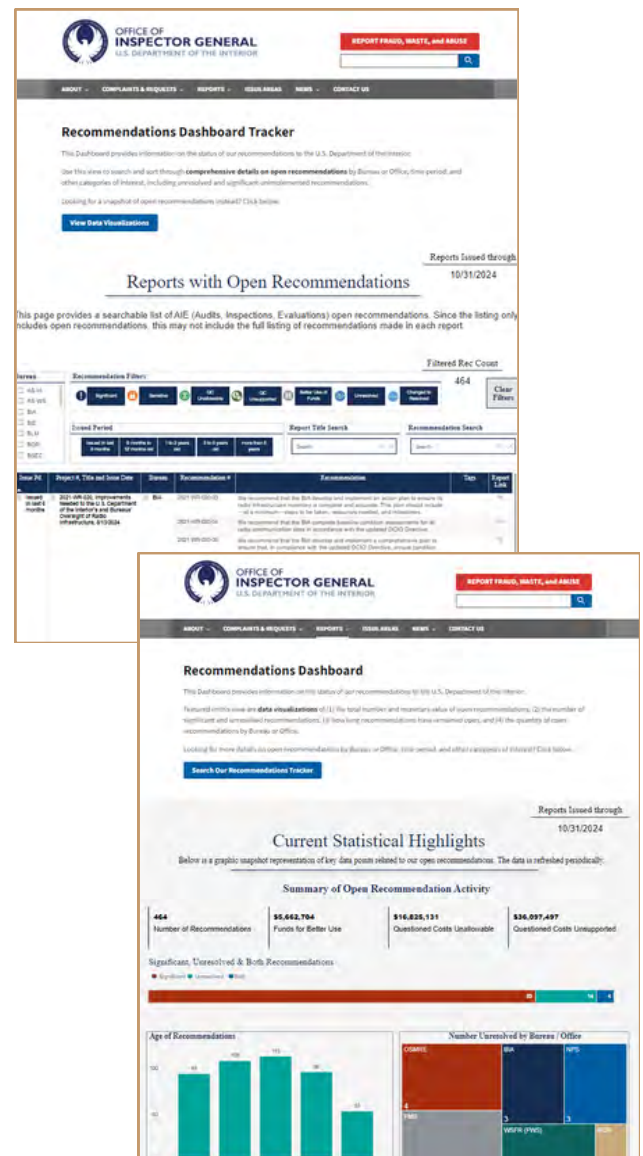
The OIG conducts fair, objective, and independent oversight to promote accountability, integrity, economy, efficiency, and effectiveness within the U.S. Department of the Interior. A key part of this work includes issuing actionable recommendations that, if implemented, will improve the Department's operations and ability to fulfill its mission.

For example, in our report [The National Park Service Faces Challenges in Managing Its Deferred Maintenance](#), we recommended that the NPS develop and implement a monitoring mechanism for deferred maintenance data in its maintenance software system to routinely verify completeness and accuracy. The Department's recent implementation of this important recommendation should improve data reliability and allow the NPS to make informed decisions when managing its deferred maintenance and repair. Similarly, in [The U.S. Department of the Interior Needs To Better Protect Data Stored in the Cloud From the Risk of Unauthorized Access](#), we recommended that the Office of the Chief Information Officer establish controls to identify, detect, and prevent unauthorized cloud services. The recent implementation of this recommendation will help strengthen Department controls around cloud service acquisitions and ensure compliance with Federal and Department cloud security requirements.

In 2023, we released a comprehensive process to improve how our recommendations are tracked and closed. By enhanced, continuous monitoring of the status of our recommendations, we are able to provide more effective and more influential oversight.

Throughout this initiative, we actively engaged with our Department counterparts to help encourage resolution and implementation of recommendations that lead to significant change. Specifically, we reduced the number of unresolved and unimplemented recommendations that were over six months old.

Now, keeping track of these recommendations is easier than ever. The OIG's newly launched [Recommendations Dashboard](#) provides comprehensive details about the status of OIG recommendations to the Department, as well as data visualizations on the number, monetary value, and duration of open recommendations.





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

If you have questions about our office, mission,  
or information in this newsletter, please  
contact Michael Haberstroh, Deputy Chief of  
Staff, Department of the Interior Office of  
Inspector General.

771-233-3797 | [MICHAEL\\_HABERSTROH@DOIOIG.GOV](mailto:MICHAEL_HABERSTROH@DOIOIG.GOV)



[www.DOIOIG.gov](http://www.DOIOIG.gov)