



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**



# Office of Inspector General

## FY 2021 Performance Report

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## AT A GLANCE: PERFORMANCE RESULTS FOR FY 2021

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) continues to make positive contributions to the Department's mission-related priorities. Impact of our efforts for fiscal year (FY) 2021 include:

Total Reports Issued	38
Questioned Costs	\$9.9 million
Suspension and Debarment Referrals	28
Civil and Administrative Actions	28
Hotline Complaints and Inquiries	2,973
Dollars Recovered through Investigative Actions	\$13.1 million

# OVERVIEW

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This report consolidates the results of our accomplishments for FY 2021. Accomplishing these goals and measures are key to achieving our organizational vision and mission.

## **Performance Goals**

- ❖ Provide independent, accurate, timely, and balanced information to the Department, Congress, and other key stakeholders to promote economy and efficiency in Department programs and operations.
- ❖ Conduct objective criminal, civil, and senior level misconduct investigations and operate a hotline that receives concerns about Department operations to deter, detect, and disrupt threats to the Department and American taxpayers.
- ❖ Enhance, support, and sustain a highly qualified and diverse workforce that enables excellence and innovation.
- ❖ Facilitate transparency by providing effective Whistleblower Ombudsman support, efficient Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) processes, and timely responses to Congress.

## **Strategic Planning and Assessment**

In prior years, the OIG has issued a combined report including the OIG's *Annual Fiscal Year Performance Report* as well as the OIG's *Performance Plan* for subsequent years. This year, the OIG will issue two separate reports. This report covers the actual performance for FY 2021. In February 2022, the OIG will issue a new 5-year Strategic Plan that covers FYs 2022 through 2026. The schedule driving this new strategic plan is outlined in *The Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010*, Section 2, and in OMB Circular A-11 sections 230 and 240. This schedule requires the OIG to publish a new Strategic Plan 1 year after the start of a new Presidential administration; in this case, in February 2022, for a plan that covers 2022 to 2026. In conjunction with this new Strategic Plan, the OIG will issue a separate document containing the performance plan measures for FY 2022 and subsequent years.

## OUR ORGANIZATION

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The OIG is headquartered in Washington, DC, and has field offices located throughout the country. The organization is responsible for conducting audits, inspections, and investigations and for receiving and acting upon allegations reported through the OIG Hotline. The organization also has a corporate support function that addresses the administrative management of the organization.

**OFFICE OF AUDITS** conducts audits of Department programs and operations. In-depth efforts are concentrated on providing reliable and credible financial and performance information and recommendations for improvements to senior Agency/Department management, Congress, and the U.S. taxpayer. A risk-based process is used to identify areas for audit coverage based on known or emerging risks and the greatest vulnerabilities to the Department's mission and operations. This process ensures comprehensive coverage over Department organizations, programs, and operations while meeting the Department's evolving needs. Special reviews of high-profile, unplanned, or immediate matters can also be addressed by audits throughout the year.

**OFFICE OF INSPECTIONS, INTELLIGENCE OVERSIGHT, AND SPECIAL PROJECTS** conducts independent and thorough reviews of Department programs and operations to evaluate operational efficiency, effectiveness, and vulnerability. Inspections consist of three types of assessments and reviews:

- (1) Performance-Based Inspections—focused on fact-finding and analyses concerning specific issues and topics;
- (2) Allegation-Based Inspections—focused, fact-finding efforts that are typically responsive to allegations of waste, fraud, abuse, or mismanagement; and
- (3) Special Projects—expedited reviews responsive to requests from entities such as Congress, the Secretary, senior Department officials, the Inspector General, or the Deputy Inspector General.

These reviews typically concern high-profile or particularly sensitive matters and may be performance-based or allegation-based in nature. In addition, this office has responsibility for reviewing the Department's Intelligence and Counterintelligence programs and operations, including the Department's oversight responsibility in accordance with Executive Order 12333, *United States Intelligence Activities*. Finally, this office also includes the OIG Hotline operations, which facilitates the reporting and resolution of allegations of fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement involving Department programs and activities. Allegations are received from Department employees, contractors, and the general public. Upon receipt of a specific allegation, the OIG may open an investigation, audit, or inspection, refer the matter to Department management for appropriate review and action, or refer the allegation to another Federal agency. The OIG Hotline also conducts whistleblower investigations under Title 41 United States Code 4712, *Enhancement of contractor protection from reprisal for disclosure of certain information*.

**OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY, FINANCIAL, AND ANALYTICS (OTFA)** promotes the effective, efficient, and economical operation of the Department's programs and operations, including the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, through audits, inspections, and other reviews regarding the identification and analysis of Departmental data. The OTFA combines audit and data evidence to address management and security issues. The OTFA conducts audits, inspections and assessments of the Department's information technology systems and related initiatives, with focus on cybersecurity, information management, and the Federal Information Security Modernization Act. The OTFA further provides timely, reliable expert data analysis in support of ongoing audits and investigations, develops risk models, and coordinated data mining efforts. The OTFA uses the latest technology and techniques to discover current and emerging cyber and economic threats and to coordinate data analysis. The combined efforts of the OTFA helps to ensure that information technology issues are properly addressed and not overlooked.

**OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS (OI)** addresses alleged violations of law that impact Department programs, operations, facilities, and personnel. Priority is given to investigations of suspected violations of criminal and civil statutes, as well as serious administrative misconduct. Investigations are also used to identify opportunities for improving the economy and efficiency of Department programs and operations by identifying recommendations for positive change. Investigators work closely with Department of Justice prosecutors and other Federal, State, and local law enforcement organizations.

**CHIEF COUNSEL** provides legal advice to senior leadership. The Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act Division, in collaboration with the Deputy Inspector General and/or Chief Counsel, coordinates e-Discovery efforts including developing and managing information processes, requirements and technology systems within a complex organization in support of high-level litigation, investigations, and Congressional responses, and provides guidance to senior management officials across the OIG regarding Federal disclosure laws and governmental procedures with respect to disclosure of agency records and protection of personally identifiable information. Also within this office is the OIG Whistleblower Ombudsman who educates Department employees about prohibitions on retaliation for whistleblowing, as well as employees' rights and remedies if anyone retaliates against them for making a whistleblower disclosure.

**SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES** advances the Inspector General's statutory mission to promote and support the appropriate use of administrative remedies by the Department. The division proposes and maintains policies regarding administrative remedies, provides training for employees likely to encounter material that may support the imposition of administrative remedies, coordinates with other Department OIG elements and stakeholders throughout the Government, prepares appropriate referrals to suspension and debarment officials, and supports those referrals throughout the administrative process.

**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION** directs the development, coordination, and execution of overall OIG management and administrative policy and planning. This responsibility includes human resource activities and consultation, directing the OIG's strategic planning process, financial management activities, personnel management and security programs, administrative support services, and information technology programs.

# MEASURING OIG PERFORMANCE

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## Goal 1

**Provide independent, accurate, timely, and balanced information to the Department, Congress and other key stakeholders in order to promote economy and efficiency in Department programs and operations.**

**Goal Leader:** *Deputy Inspector General*

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>
1.1 Percentage of audit products issued during the performance year that address top management challenges or Department high-risk areas.	<b>Target:</b> 78% <b>Actual:</b> 89%
1.2 Percentage of investigations initiated that fall within one of the established OIG-mission priorities.	<b>Target:</b> 77% <b>Actual:</b> 79%
1.3 Percentage of technology- and financial-based audits, inspections, and/or reviews issued during the year that address top management challenges or Department high-risk areas.	<b>Target:</b> 77% <b>Actual:</b> 94%
1.4 Percentage of employees hired within established timeframes (average time no more than 5% longer than prior year).	<b>Target:</b> 64% <b>Actual:</b> 80%
1.5 Percentage of completed legal reviews supported with sound advice within the established timeframes.	<b>Target:</b> 87% <b>Actual:</b> 93%

## Goal 2

**Provide independent, accurate, timely, and balanced information to the Department, Congress and other key stakeholders in order to promote economy and efficiency in Department programs and operations.**

**Goal Leader:** *Assistant Inspector General for Audits*

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>
2.1 Percentage of Office of Audit products issued during the performance year that address top management challenges or Department high-risk areas.	<b>Target: 78%</b> <b>Actual: 89%</b>
2.2 Percentage of Office of Audit products issued within the projected timeframes as established at the Decision Brief.	<b>Target: 22%</b> <b>Actual: 6%</b>
2.3 Percentage of Office of Audit reports with recommendations, suggestions, or corrective actions taken during the engagement that provide clear and convincing rationale for findings.	<b>Target: 88%</b> <b>Actual: 94%</b>

### Goal 3

**Conduct objective criminal, civil, and senior level misconduct investigations to deter, detect, and disrupt threats to the Department and American taxpayers.**

**Goal Leader:** *Assistant Inspector General for Investigations*

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>
3.1 Number of fraud/cyber awareness briefings conducted to educate and inform Department employees, contractors, and grant recipients of the OIG mission and means of submitting allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse.	<b>Target: 77 Briefings</b>  <b>Actual: 96 Briefings</b>
3.2 Percentage of “open/active” investigations that have significant, documented investigative activity every quarter, as documented in quarterly case reviews.	<b>Target: 75%</b>  <b>Actual: 93%</b>
3.3 Percentage of investigations closed after being open more than 365 days with a reportable outcome, as defined by policy.	<b>Target: 55%</b>  <b>Actual: 60%</b>
3.4 Percentage of investigations initiated that fall within one of the established OIG-mission priorities.	<b>Target: 77%</b>  <b>Actual: 79%</b>

## Goal 4

**Operate a hotline that receives concerns about Department operations to deter, detect, and disrupt threats to the Department and American taxpayers.**

**Goal Leader:** *Assistant Inspector General for Inspections, Intelligence Oversight, and Special Projects*

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>
4.1 Percentage of inspection products issued within 1 year of project initiation.	<b>Target:</b> 25%  <b>Actual:</b> 67%
4.2 Percentage of reports with suggestions, recommendations, or corrective actions taken during the engagement that provide clear and convincing rationale for findings.	<b>Target:</b> 88%  <b>Actual:</b> 100%
4.3 Average number of days by which hotline complaints are referred to responsible entities following a disposition decision.	<b>Target:</b> 12 days  <b>Actual:</b> 10 days

## Goal 5

**Strengthen the Department's business operations through improved financial management and the development of a secure and modern information technology infrastructure.**

**Goal Leader:** *Assistant Inspector General for Technology, Financial, and Analytics*

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>
5.1 Percentage of information technology and financial-based audits, inspections, and/or reviews developed in accordance with policy within projected timeframes as measured from start to completion.	<b>Target:</b> 22%  <b>Actual:</b> 63%
5.2 Percentage of technology and financial-based audits, inspections, and/or reviews issued during the year that address top management challenges or Department high-risk areas.	<b>Target:</b> 77%  <b>Actual:</b> 94%
5.3 Percentage of performance reports and/or Management Letters issued to the Department with recommendations or suggestions made to improve the operations and management of its programs.	<b>Target:</b> 87%  <b>Actual:</b> 100%
5.4 Percentage of analytical projects developed in accordance with policy within projected timeframes as measured start to completion.	<b>Target:</b> 52%  <b>Actual:</b> 82%

## Goal 6

**Enhance, support, and sustain a highly qualified and diverse workforce that enables excellence and innovation.**

**Goal Leader:** *Assistant Inspector General for Management and Administration*

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>
6.1 Percentage of employees hired within established timeframes (average time no more than 5% longer than prior year).	<b>Target: 64%</b> <b>Actual: 80%</b>
6.2 Percentage of employees who respond to the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey or other employee satisfaction surveys initiated by the organization.	<b>Target: 68%</b> <b>Actual: 83.7%</b>
6.3 Percentage of performance plans, individual development plans, progress reviews, and performance ratings finalized within prescribed timeframes.	<b>Target: 94%</b> <b>Actual: 100%</b>
6.4 Percentage of employees who complete mandatory training within prescribed timeframes.	<b>Target: 98%</b> <b>Actual: 100%</b>

## Goal 7

**Facilitate OIG operations by providing clear, timely, accurate and actionable legal advice, effective Whistleblower Ombudsman support and efficient Freedom of Information Act processes.**

**Goal Leader:** *Counsel to the Inspector General*

<b>Performance Measures</b>	<b>FY 2021</b>
7.1 Percentage of legal reviews, supported with sound advice, completed within the established timeframes.	<b>Target:</b> <b>87%</b>  <b>Actual:</b> <b>93%</b>
7.2 Percentage of Congressional inquiries in which legal advice is provided within prescribed timeframes.	<b>Target:</b> <b>92%</b>  <b>Actual:</b> <b>100%</b>
7.3 Number of days to examine, evaluate, and provide initial responses, including appropriate fee notices, to Freedom of Information Act and Privacy Act requests.	<b>Target:</b> <b>20 Days</b>  <b>Actual:</b> <b>20 Days</b>
7.4 Percentage of whistleblower claims in which legal advice is provided within established timeframes.	<b>Target:</b> <b>89%</b>  <b>Actual:</b> <b>90%</b>
7.5 Percentage of subpoenas prepared within established timeframes.	<b>Target:</b> <b>93%</b>  <b>Actual:</b> <b>95%</b>