



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

March 30, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

SUBJECT: External Peer Review Report: *The Department of Energy Office of Inspector General Inspection and Evaluation Function*

The *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* issued by Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) prescribes that all inspection organizations that are members of the CIGIE must undergo an external peer review in accordance with CIGIE requirements. The Department of Defense's Office of Inspector General conducted the required peer review of my inspection and evaluation function. I am pleased to report that the Department of Defense's Office of Inspector General found that the system of quality control for our inspection and evaluation function was suitably designed and complied with the CIGIE *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* and that it provided reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with those standards.

Under CIGIE guidance, it is our responsibility to ensure the final Peer Review is provided to the Agency head and other appropriate oversight bodies, as well as be made publicly available. Enclosed for your information is a copy of the recently completed peer review.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this report.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah Nelson".

Sarah Nelson
Assistant Inspector General
for Management
Performing the Duties of the Inspector General
Office of Inspector General

Attachment



INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

March 12, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR MANAGEMENT,
PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL,
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SUBJECT: External Peer Review Final Report on the Department of Energy
Office of Inspector General Inspection and Evaluation Function

Attached is the final external peer review report of the Department of Energy Office of Inspector General inspection and evaluation function, conducted in accordance with the "Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General," published in July 2023 by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

We have incorporated your feedback on the draft report provided on March 2, 2026. Your response is included as Enclosure 2 in the attached external peer review report.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Daniel Peitz at (703) 604-9281 or at daniel.j.peitz.civ@dodig.mil.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Platte B. Moring, III".

Platte B. Moring, III

Attachment:
As stated



INSPECTOR GENERAL
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
4800 MARK CENTER DRIVE
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22350-1500

Final External Peer Review Report

March 12, 2026

To: Sarah Nelson
Assistant Inspector General for Management,
Performing the Duties of the Inspector General,
Department of Energy

We reviewed the system of quality control for the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Inspector General (OIG) inspection and evaluation (I&E) function in effect for the year that ended September 30, 2025. A system of quality control includes multiple aspects of an organization, including policies and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance of complying with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE) "Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation," published in December 2020 (Blue Book).

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the DOE OIG in effect for the year that ended September 30, 2025, was suitably designed and complied with to provide the Department of Defense (DoD) OIG with reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the Blue Book.

I&E organizations can receive a rating of *pass*, *pass with deficiencies*, or *fail*. The DOE OIG has received an External Peer Review rating of *pass*.

Basis of Opinion

This required external peer review was conducted in accordance with the "Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General," published in July 2023 by CIGIE, and the Memorandum of Understanding between the OIGs of the DOE and DoD, entered into on December 3, 2025.

During our review, we obtained an understanding of the nature of the DOE OIG's I&E function and design of the DOE OIG's system of quality control sufficient to assess the risks implicit in its I&E function. Based on our assessments, we selected I&E reports

and administrative files to test for conformity with Blue Book standards and compliance with the DOE OIG's system of quality control.

In performing our review, we obtained an understanding of the system of quality control for the DOE OIG's I&E function. In addition, we tested compliance with the DOE OIG's quality control policies and procedures to the extent we considered appropriate. These tests covered the application of the DOE OIG's policies and procedures on selected I&E reports. Our review was based on selected tests; therefore, it would not necessarily detect all weaknesses in the system of quality control or all instances of noncompliance with it.

Before concluding the peer review, we reassessed the adequacy of the scope of the peer review procedures and met with DOE OIG management to discuss the results of our review. We believe that the procedures we performed provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. Enclosure 1 of this report identifies the DOE OIG's I&E reports we reviewed.

The DOE OIG's management officials provided a response to our Peer Review Report (Enclosure 2) in which they agreed with our overall rating.

Responsibilities and Limitations

The DOE OIG is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of quality control designed to provide the DOE OIG with reasonable assurance that the organization and its personnel comply in all material respects with Blue Book standards. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the DOE OIG's compliance based on our review.

The effectiveness of any system of quality control has inherent limitations; therefore, noncompliance with the system of quality control may occur and not be detected. Projection of any evaluation of a system of quality control to future periods is subject to the risk that the system of quality control may become inadequate because of changes in conditions or because the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.



Platte B. Moring, III

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE 1: Scope and Methodology

We reviewed compliance with the DOE OIG I&E function’s system of quality control in effect for the year that ended September 30, 2025, to the extent we considered appropriate. In accordance with CIGIE peer review requirements, DOE OIG representatives provided the review team with a copy of their most recent peer review report and relevant I&E organizational charts, policies, guides, and manuals used by the DOE to conduct, report, and ensure the quality of I&E projects. DOE OIG representatives also provided the review team with a list of all evaluations and inspections performed during the 3-year period before the start of this review—October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2025.

Review of Policies and Procedures

We performed a review of the I&E policies and procedures provided by the DOE OIG and documented our determination of whether the DOE OIG I&E function’s policies and procedures generally addressed each of the Blue Book standard requirements. To make our determination, we performed individual assessments and then discussed our results before forming an overall conclusion of whether the DOE OIG I&E’s policies and procedures generally addressed each of the Blue Book standard requirements.

Review of Implementation of Blue Book Standards and Internal Policies and Procedures

In accordance with CIGIE peer review guidelines, we considered reports issued during the 1-year period before the start of the peer review. During that period, the DOE OIG issued 13 reports, which were all unclassified. Criteria considered for report selection included report type, division, subject matter, and distinct project leads. We selected three reports from three different divisions for review. Two of the selected reports were inspections, and one was an evaluation.

For each reviewed report, we reviewed working papers and project documentation to determine whether report conclusions and recommendations logically flowed from the documented report findings. We also compared the selected reports and associated project documentation to Blue Book standards and the DOE OIG’s internal policies and procedures to determine whether the selected reports complied with the requirements of each Blue Book standard. The table lists the evaluation and inspection reports the DoD OIG selected for review.

Table. DOE OIG Evaluation and Inspection Reports Selected for Review

Final Report Number	Title	Report Type	Final Report Date
DOE-OIG-25-29	The Department of Energy Did Not Consistently Comply with Department Order 486.1A Requirements	Inspection	8/12/2025
DOE-OIG-25-30	The Department of Energy's Unclassified Cybersecurity Program – 2024	Evaluation	8/14/2025
DOE-OIG-25-35	The Grid Deployment Office's Implementation of the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund Program	Inspection	9/25/2025

We conducted this evaluation remotely. The DOE OIG provided all required project documentation for each report electronically. During the review, we submitted written questions to the DOE OIG and requested additional information and clarification when necessary regarding policies and procedures and selected reports. We did not identify any constraints on our ability to exercise professional judgment or impairments to our independence during our review.

ENCLOSURE 2: Reviewed Organization's Comments to Draft Peer Review Report



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

March 6, 2026

Mr. Michael J. Roark
Deputy Inspector General for Evaluations
Department of Defense
4800 Mark Center Drive
Alexandria, VA 22350

Dear Mr. Roark,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the external peer review draft report on the Department of Energy, Office of Inspector General. The Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General concluded in its report that the system of quality control for our inspection and evaluation function in effect for the fiscal year ended September 30, 2025, was suitably designed to provide reasonable assurance that our inspections and evaluations products were performed and reported in conformance with Blue Book standards.

The Department of Energy, Office of Inspector General is pleased that our audit organization received a rating of *pass*. Therefore, we have no specific comments relating to the report. We wish to express our sincere appreciation for the professionalism and thoroughness demonstrated by the Department of Defense, Office of Inspector General team while conducting its review. We remain committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and accountability in our inspection and evaluation processes. Our office values collaborative efforts with peer organizations, as they are essential to fostering continuous improvement and sustaining public trust in our work. If you have questions relating to our response, you may contact me at (202) 603-1074; Debbie Thomas, Deputy Assistant Inspector General at (509) 373-9959; or Carlos Diaz, Deputy Assistant Inspector General at (202) 586-1367.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MDD", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Matthew D. Dove
Assistant Inspector General for Audits
Office of Inspector General

cc: Sarah Nelson, Assistant Inspector General for Management, *Performing the Duties of the Inspector General*
Lewe Sessions, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, *Performing the Duties of the Deputy Inspector General*
Debbie Thomas, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits
Carlos Diaz, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audits