



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Inspector General

DOE-OIG-26-39

June 8, 2026

Stanford University's Costs Incurred and Claimed for Fiscal Years 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020 Under Contract No. DE-AC02-76SF00515



AUDIT REPORT

On June 8, 2026, the Department of Energy Office of Inspector General issued audit report DOE-OIG-26-39, *Stanford University's Costs Incurred and Claimed for Fiscal Years 2016, 2018, 2019 and 2020 Under Contract No. DE-AC02-76SF00515*. Due to the audit report containing controlled unclassified information, it was not released publicly. However, in the interest of transparency, we prepared a highlights document to convey key summary facts from our work that is free of controlled information.



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

June 8, 2026

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CONTRACTING OFFICER, SLAC SITE OFFICE, OFFICE OF
SCIENCE

SUBJECT: Audit Report: *Stanford University's Costs Incurred and Claimed for Fiscal Years 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020 Under Contract No. DE-AC02-76SF00515*

The Office of Inspector General contracted with CohnReznick LLP (CohnReznick) to audit Stanford University's costs incurred and claimed for fiscal years 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020 at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory, under management and operating contract No. DE-AC02-76SF00515, to determine if costs charged were allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and contract terms. CohnReznick performed the audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

CohnReznick did not identify any questioned costs during the audit. However, CohnReznick identified two controls deficiencies and considered approximately \$272 million in subcontractor costs unresolved pending audit. The identified control deficiencies related to a lack of documentation to support costs and a lack of adequate controls over timesheets for certain labor costs. Further, CohnReznick reported three qualifications that may have impacted the results of the audit if the related information had been received and evaluated.

The Office of Inspector General did not express an independent opinion on Stanford University's fiscal years 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020 Statement of Costs Incurred and Claimed submissions.

Stanford University management provided comments, which were included in the report. However, pursuant to Public Law 117-263, Section 5274, the contractor has 30 days from the date of publication of this report on our website to submit an optional written response to OIG.Reports@hq.doe.gov for the purpose of clarifying or providing additional context to any specific reference. The response will be posted on our public website. If the response contains any classified or other nonpublic information, the response should clearly identify the portions that need to be redacted and should provide a legal basis for the proposed redactions.

We appreciated the cooperation of your staff during the audit.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'MDD', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

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

cc: Deputy Secretary
Chief of Staff

DOE OIG HIGHLIGHTS

Stanford University's Costs Incurred and Claimed for Fiscal Years 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020 Under Contract No. DE-AC02-76SF00515

Why the Audit Was Performed

This audit was performed by CohnReznick LLP (CohnReznick) on behalf of the Department of Energy Office of Inspector General and examined Stanford University's costs incurred and claimed for fiscal years 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020 at SLAC National Accelerator Laboratory under management and operating contract No. DE-AC02-76SF00515.

The audit's objective was to determine if costs charged to Department contract No. DE-AC02-76SF00515 for fiscal years 2016, 2018, 2019, and 2020 were allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and contract terms.

CohnReznick performed the audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

What the Audit Found

CohnReznick did not identify any questioned costs during the audit. However, CohnReznick identified two controls deficiencies and considered approximately \$272 million in subcontractor costs unresolved pending audit. The identified control deficiencies related to a lack of documentation to support costs and a lack of adequate controls over timesheets for certain labor costs. Further, CohnReznick reported three qualifications that may have impacted the results of the audit if the related information had been received and evaluated.

What the Audit Recommends

CohnReznick made two recommendations. We also recommend that the contractor coordinate with the contracting officer to address the unresolved costs pending audit identified in this report. If the issues identified are fully addressed, it should help ensure that costs charged to the Department are allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with contract terms.

How the Contractor Responded

Stanford University nonconcurred with the identified control deficiencies. Further, Stanford University asserted that sufficient documentation and adequate controls were present to support claimed costs.

FEEDBACK

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