U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Inspector General

DOE-OIG-26-46 August 6, 2026

The Trustees of Princeton University's Costs Incurred and Claimed for Fiscal Years 2016 Through 2019 Under Contract No. DE-AC02-09CH11466

AUDIT REPORT

On August 6, 2026, the Department of Energy Office of Inspector General issued audit report DOE-OIG-26-46, *The Trustees of Princeton University's Costs Incurred and Claimed for Fiscal Years 2016 Through 2019 Under Contract No. DE-AC02-09CH11466*. 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

August 6, 2026

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

SUBJECT: Audit Report: *The Trustees of Princeton University's Costs Incurred and Claimed for Fiscal Years 2016 Through 2019 Under Contract No. DE-AC02-09CH11466*

The Office of Inspector General contracted with CohnReznick LLP (CohnReznick) to audit The Trustees of Princeton University's costs incurred and claimed for fiscal years 2016 through 2019 at Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, under management and operating contract No. DE-AC02-09CH11466, to determine if costs charged were allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with contract terms, applicable laws, and regulations. CohnReznick performed the audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

CohnReznick identified two control deficiencies related to inadequate timekeeping controls and lack of supporting documentation showing cost or price analysis. Additionally, CohnReznick considered approximately $1.5 million in subcontractor costs unresolved pending audit and reported two qualifications that may have impacted the results of the audit if the related information had been received and evaluated.

CohnReznick is responsible for the attached audit report dated June 17, 2025, and the conclusions expressed therein. The Office of Inspector General did not express an independent opinion on The Trustees of Princeton University's fiscal years 2016 through 2019 Statement of Costs Incurred and Claimed submissions.

The Trustees of Princeton University withheld comment pending discussion with the contracting officer as noted 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.

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

cc: Deputy Secretary
Chief of Staff

DOE OIG HIGHLIGHTS

The Trustees of Princeton University's Costs Incurred and Claimed for Fiscal Years 2016 Through 2019 Under Contract No. DE-AC02-09CH11466

Why the Audit Was Performed

This audit was performed by CohnReznick LLP (CohnReznick) on behalf of the Department of Energy Office of Inspector General. CohnReznick audited The Trustees of Princeton University's costs incurred and claimed for fiscal years 2016 through 2019 at Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory, under management and operating contract No. DE-AC02-09CH11466.

The audit's objective was to determine if costs charged to Department contract No. DE-AC02-09CH11466 for fiscal years 2016 through 2019 were allowable, allocable, and reasonable in accordance with contract terms, applicable laws, and regulations.

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

What the Audit Found

CohnReznick identified two control deficiencies related to inadequate timekeeping controls and lack of supporting documentation showing cost or price analysis. Additionally, CohnReznick considered approximately $1.5 million in subcontractor costs unresolved pending audit and reported two 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. The Office of Inspector General also recommends that the contractor coordinate with the contracting officer to address the unresolved costs 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

The Trustees of Princeton University withheld comment pending discussion with the contracting officer.

FEEDBACK

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