



United States Department of the Interior

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
Reston, Virginia 22092

September 3, 2019

Jeff Ruch
Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER)
962 Wayne Avenue; Suite 610
Silver Spring, MD 20910
(202) 265-7337
<http://www.peer.org>

Dear Mr. Ruch:

This is the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Final Response to your January 11, 2018, Request for Correction of Information submitted following the USGS Information Quality Guidelines process under the Information Quality Act (IQA). Your request was regarding the USGS response to the Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General (OIG) Final Evaluation Report-Evaluation of USGS Scientific Collection Management Policy, Report No. 2016-ER-57 (September 2017). Documentation about your request may be viewed on our web page related to the [USGS Response to the Department of the Interior, Office of Inspector General Final Evaluation Report-Evaluation of USGS Scientific Collection Management Policy, Report No. 2016-ER-57 \(September 2017\)](#).

We appreciate your interest in the management of USGS scientific collections. The USGS began drafting policy to govern USGS scientific collections in early 2016. We recognized the need for comprehensive policy and we take our responsibility for the care of our scientific collections very seriously.

We are pleased to inform you that our new scientific collections policy was publicly released in the Bureau's Survey Manual on July 19, 2019, as Instructional Memorandum (IM) policy, [IM CSS 2019-01 - USGS Scientific Working Collections Management](#), which aligns USGS scientific collections policies with the requirements stated in the Departmental Manual. In addition, guidance supporting the policy is available at the [USGS Scientific Collections website](#).

The OIG was notified in writing of the USGS policy issuance on July 30, 2019, and upon their review of the notification determined that the USGS has met the intent of the OIG recommendation and consider the recommendation implemented and closed.

Consequently, the USGS will not rescind its 2017 response to the OIG report as suggested in your IQA request.

With this Final Response, we consider the request for correction you submitted through the USGS Information Quality Guidelines process closed. The right to appeal is available if you are dissatisfied with our decision regarding your request. The appeal should be addressed to the Director, USGS, and it must be submitted to the USGS (via email to InfoQual@usgs.gov) within 21 calendar days of the date of this final USGS response. Additional information on the procedure for submitting an appeal is found on the [USGS Information Quality Guidelines website](#), under section IV, item 4.

Sincerely,



Kevin T. Gallagher
Associate Director, Core Science Systems