

## **Excerpt from OIG Report: "Semiannual Report to Congress: October 1, 2023–March 31, 2024"**

In FY 2022, the OIG initiated discussions with the Agency to revise the coordination procedures between the OIG and the Agency's Scientific Integrity Program related to information sharing on scientific integrity. In June 2022, the OIG presented revised coordination procedures to the Agency that would ensure that complaints involving scientific integrity, as well as other misconduct, were promptly disclosed to the OIG. In August 2023, the Agency provided revisions to the OIG's revised coordination procedures. In January 2024, the OIG met with the Agency to discuss its concerns with the Agency's revisions, including the removal of language addressing allegations of interference and censorship by senior Agency employees, as well as allegations of other employee misconduct. The OIG has agreed to provide a written overview of its concerns to the Agency.

Since the beginning of FY 2023, the OIG has had to issue monthly information requests to the Agency's Scientific Integrity Program to ensure that the OIG is receiving all relevant information on potential scientific integrity concerns. In January 2024, the Agency agreed to provide this information to the OIG without the need for a formal information request for a period of six months while the OIG and the Agency work to finalize the revised coordination procedures. Revised coordination procedures are essential to clarify the OIG's access rights and to ensure that scientific integrity concerns, as well as allegations of other wrongdoing, are routed to the proper office and addressed in the most efficient and effective manner. (Page 15)

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