



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

JUL 22 2005

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

Mr. Jeff Ruch
Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
2001 S Street NW, Suite 570
Washington, DC 20009

Ms. Rebecca Roose
Program Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
2001 S Street NW, Suite 570
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Mr. Ruch and Ms. Roose:

Inspector General Tinsley has received your letter dated July 18, 2005, regarding contracting issues in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Research and Development (ORD), and has referred it to my office for action. You requested that the Office of Inspector General review the legality, conformance with EPA policy, and fiscal appropriateness of ORD's request for proposals to "enhance ORD's corporate image." We will begin collecting information and researching your allegations. We will notify you in writing at the conclusion of our initial review of the facts, and inform you of our next steps.

In the interim, if you wish to provide additional information you may write us at:

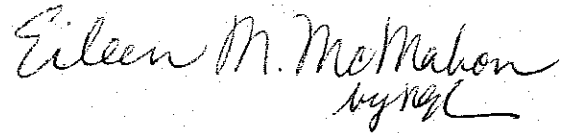
U.S. EPA OIG Hotline
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Mail Code 2491T/3106
Washington, DC 20460

Send a facsimile to: 202-566-2549

Or email us at: OIG_Hotline@epa.gov

Thank you for your interest in protecting human health and the environment. Please contact Mr. Paul McKechnie, Director of Public Liaison, at (617)918-1471 if you have any questions and refer to OIG Hotline Chron No. 2005-334 on any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Eileen M. McMahon" with a stylized flourish underneath.

Eileen M. McMahon
Assistant Inspector General
Office of Congressional and Public Liaison

cc: OIG/IO
OIG/OCPL