Selected Environmental Violations
Found at the Interior Headquarters Complex
Main Interior Building (MIB) and South Interior Building (SIB)

Hazardous Waste: "Because no system for the proper disposal of hazardous waste or unneeded hazardous materials is provided to employees, the only options available to employees are to abandon these items in various mechanical spaces or discard them illegally." Page 26

Mercury Spills:
"…hundreds of spent fluorescent lamp tubes have accumulated in several areas of the audited facilities. This waste is not labeled as Universal Waste and many spent lamp tubes are not protected from damage…When fluorescent lamp tubes are broken, most of the mercury turns from a gas into a liquid; however, some of the aerosolized mercury may be released into the atmosphere." Pages 30-31

"Replacement mercury thermometers and switches are installed throughout Main and South Interior Buildings…No initiative to replace existing mercury-containing equipment…has been established for the Department, and any damaged thermometers or switches in mechanical areas are replaced with new equipment that contains mercury. New mercury switches are in storage in the MIB main compressor room storage room." Page 40

Improper Waste Storage:
"Significant quantities of uncharacterized potentially hazardous waste has accumulated throughout the MIB and SIB." Page 33

"The [Audit] Team identified hundreds of gallons of excess hazardous materials throughout the MIB and SIB." Page 37

PCBs: "The light ballasts and capacitors containing PCBs were found in main and south compressor rooms in the Main and South Interior Buildings." Page 42

Potable Water:
"Hose bibs [throughout the MIB and SIB] are not equipped with vacuum breakers to prevent contaminated water from being drawn into the drinking water piping." Page 48

"Backflow preventors installed on water lines in the Interior Complex are not tested annually…The District of Columbia has enacted regulatory requirements to prevent the backflow of contaminants that may be hazardous to human health into drinking water supplies. The District requires that backflow preventors be tested annually by a certified tester." Page 46