

EPA Public Affairs Office Explanation for Gag Order

"The enforcement office issued a memo that established standard operating procedures within that office to efficiently respond to requests from GAO and EPA's Inspector General. This procedure was developed in part to respond to a recent IG report, "EPA can Improve its Oversight of Audit Followup," and to ensure consistency and coordination among those responding to IG and GAO reports. There is nothing in the standard operating procedures that restricts conversation between OECA staff and the IG. In fact, the IG reviewed OECA's procedures and signed off on them. The procedures simply ensure timely responses and assist in tracking and record keeping obligations."