



U.S. OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL  
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Washington, D.C. 20036-4505

September 30, 2002

Mr. Kent Wilkinson  
c/o Dan Meyer, Esq.  
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility  
2001 S Street, N.W., Suite 570  
Washington, D.C. 20009

Re: OSC File No. DI-02-2202

Dear Mr. Wilkinson:

We have transmitted your allegations of wrongdoing in connection with the negotiation of the 2002 Federal-Utah State Trust Lands Consolidation Agreement to the Secretary of the Interior for a report pursuant to 5 U.S.C. § 1213(c). With your consent, we identified you as the source of the information so that a representative of the Secretary's Office may speak with you directly.

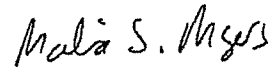
The allegations transmitted are that Terry Catlin, Realty Specialist, National Land Exchange Team, BLM, abused her authority as the primary negotiator on behalf of the United States for the 2002 Federal - Utah State Trust Lands Consolidation Agreement. You alleged that Ms. Catlin represented the lands exchanged under the Agreement as being of "approximately equal value" without making a "good faith effort" to properly value a significant portion of the federal land. You also allege that Ms. Catlin was aware of BLM appraisal data demonstrating that, in reality, the federal land has a significantly higher market value than the state land. In particular, you allege that Ms. Catlin (1) failed to obtain and/or consider the mineral value for several tracts of federal land with significant mineral resources, (2) failed to properly reconcile the surface and mineral values of other federal parcels, (3) and employed inaccurate valuation methods that caused the federal lands to be significantly undervalued.

We have provided the Secretary 60 days to conduct an investigation of these allegations and to report back to us. You should be aware, however, that these matters may take somewhat longer and agencies may request an extension of the reporting date. After we have reviewed the report, we will send you a copy and give you an opportunity to comment. The report and your comments will be transmitted to the President and the

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appropriate congressional oversight committees, and will be maintained by OSC in a public file.

Sincerely,



Malia S. Myers  
Attorney  
Disclosure Unit

LMD:CAM:MSM/msm  
Enclosure