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INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

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COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES
2012 JUL 20 PM 5:22

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The Honorable Doc Hastings
Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your letter of May 30, 2012, in which you requested the following information:

1. A list (containing specific information) of all audits, inspections, program evaluations, investigations, or other IG actions initiated from January 1, 2009 through the present concerning the following topics:
 - a. Department programs and policies involving renewable energy on federal lands (both onshore and offshore);
 - b. Restoration of the Klamath Basin, including any reviews involving the adequacy of the science supporting the Department's restoration plan; and
 - c. Reviews of the Department's implementation of its January 2011 scientific integrity policy.

2. A list (containing specific information) of all claims or allegations of violations of the Department's scientific integrity policies, or any claims or allegations of any other policy protecting the rights of Department employees to communicate their professional views on science, that have been reviewed or investigated by the IG from January 1, 2009 through the present.

The lists you requested are enclosed. We also enclose lists of other energy-related IG reviews that are not specifically focused on renewable energy, as these reflect a significant body of our work. You will notice that an evaluation conducted in 2010 on renewable energy was suspended following a meeting with the Department to discuss our Draft Report. We had endeavored to conduct a comprehensive review of all of the Department's renewable/alternative energy efforts across bureaus. After conducting some follow up work subsequent to our meeting with the Department, we concluded that we could not verify all the information provided to us by the Department on such a comprehensive level without undertaking considerably more field work. Since our data was already dated at the time we met with the Department to discuss the draft, we chose, instead, to focus our attention on more manageable size efforts in which we could be confident of the timeliness and accuracy of our findings, and make more meaningful recommendations. We did this beginning with the Climate Friendly Parks, Program Startup, and BLM Renewable Energy Evaluations. We also have evaluations ongoing in Geothermal

Hydraulic Fracturing and Climate Change. We have Underground Injection Control and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Renewable Energy Program in our plan for late Fiscal Year '12 and Fiscal Year '13. In conducting these more focused, individual efforts, if we find cross-cutting programmatic weaknesses, overlap, or opportunities for improving management efficiencies, we will roll these up in a more comprehensive compilation report.

We have several efforts listed on the Klamath Basin, but we have not conducted any formal reviews on the adequacy of the science supporting the Department's restoration plan. As a result of your inquiry, however, we did conduct an initial review of the public record.

The Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement was signed on February 18, 2010 by 48 entities, including the Department, "for the purpose of resolving among them the pending [Federal Energy Regulatory Commission] relicensing proceeding..." All parties are bound by this Agreement "until Facilities Removal has been fully achieved and all conditions of the Settlement have been satisfied." The Agreement covers: Implementation, Studies (including Study Process Guidelines and the Science Process), Environmental Reviews, Secretarial Determinations (that "Facilities Removal (i) will advance restoration of salmon fisheries of the Klamath Basin, and (ii) is in the public interest..."), Costs, Local Community Power (energy power, not physical power), Interim Operations (including an Interim Conservation Plan), and Decommissioning and Removing the Dams. The Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement for the Sustainability of Public and Trust Resources and Affected Communities was also signed on February 18, 2010. It covers: Legal Responsibilities, Precedents, Reservation of Rights, Party Obligations, Project Funding, Coordination and Oversight, Dispute Resolution, Klamath Basin Fisheries Restoration, Reintroduction, Monitoring Program, Water Resources Program, Drought, Climate Change, and Emergency Water Situations.

Based on these agreements, it appears that 33 separate scientific studies were planned in the areas of Data Collection, Engineering, Geomorphology, Construction, Water Quality, Biological, Economic, and Real Estate for use in the Secretarial Determination. Our review of the January 23, 2012 DRAFT Klamath Dam Removal Overview Report for the Secretary of the Interior indicates that more than the 33 studies were done. For example, a Cultural and Tribal study was done that was not listed in the planned studies.

Copies of the studies are available on-line, as are copies of the Peer Reviews done on each of the studies. Our review suggests that the peer reviewers agreed with the methodology and conclusions of the scientific reviews. In fact, a Peer Review was done on the DRAFT Klamath Dam Removal Overview Report to ensure none of the scientific study results were ignored when the Secretarial Determination was made. Meeting minutes for the Klamath Basin Coordinating Council are available from July 2010; a February 2012 Status of Implementation Report, a June 2011 Annual Implementation Report, copies of the Public Review Summaries for the Agreement, the NEPA Review and Environmental Impact Report are also available on-line to the public.

Given the comprehensiveness of the governing Agreements, the transparency being given to the process, and the complete absence (to date) of any complaints about the manner in which this effort is proceeding, the OIG does not have any plans to conduct any additional reviews at

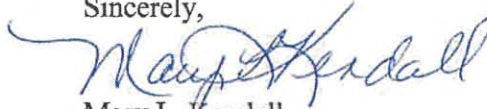
this time. That said, however, if the Committee is aware of any issues relating to Klamath, we will give careful consideration to any request for further inquiry by the OIG.

We have not conducted any formal reviews of the Department's Scientific Integrity Policy, but we have met with the Department, have provided our input into how the Scientific Integrity Board should interface with the OIG, and have agreed on how to coordinate between the Board and the OIG.

We have enclosed a list of all claims or allegations of scientific misconduct, violations of the Department's scientific integrity policies, or of any other policy protecting the rights of Department employees to communicate their professional views on science. While the OIG has, and presumably will again, investigate matters of scientific misconduct, the OIG is not generally qualified to opine on the underlying science in such cases. Therefore, given that the Department has published its Scientific Integrity Policy and established the Scientific Integrity Board means that it will be positioned to address the underlying science when such matters are raised.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, or your staff may contact Kris Kolesnik, Associate Inspector General for External Affairs, at 202-208-5745.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary L. Kendall". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "K".

Mary L. Kendall
Acting Inspector General

Enclosures (4)