

Office of Inspector General

We provide independent oversight of the Department of Energy to promote sound fiscal stewardship.

2024 Performance Report

2025 Performance Plan

We identified nearly \$1 billion in potential savings and recoveries of taxpayer dollars lost to fraud, waste, and abuse, with a budget of about \$86 million. The strategic work we undertook to achieve these results is highlighted in this report.



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Message From the Inspector General

To our stakeholders:

With an Office of Inspector General (OIG) budget of \$86 million in fiscal year (FY) 2024, OIG findings resulted in almost \$1 billion of monetary impact.

This estimate does not include the value of the 183 OIG recommendations that may not be readily monetized in the 45 reports issued throughout the year. These nonmonetary recommendations result in significant benefits.

For example, during the second half of the year alone, the OIG provided 23 recommendations for improvement to the Department of Energy regarding changes needed to address cybersecurity weaknesses.

During this year, the OIG identified more than \$4 billion at unnecessary fraud risk due to insufficient application of the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee's best practices. Additionally, as a result of our work, the Department de-obligated a \$100 million Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act grant award after the OIG identified that the grantee was under investigation for exporting equipment to a Chinese company. Our work also resulted in 9 criminal convictions, 13 civil actions, and 23 administrative discipline and other management actions. Furthermore, the OIG conducted 258 Fraud Awareness Briefings that reached almost 5,000 employees, contractors and grantees.

During FY 2024, the OIG received eight letters from Congress, and responded accordingly to each of those.

As a result of Congressional inquiries and requests, the OIG set up six projects to address the matters contained in those letters.

All of the OIG's goals for FY 2024 were exceeded. I am extremely proud of the hard work that went into making this happen. The results are particularly noteworthy given that the OIG is operating under the tremendous strain of being underfunded.

I look forward to another successful year as we move into FY 2025. I will also continue to work with Congress to ensure that my office receives the funding necessary to reduce fraud, waste, and abuse.



Teri L. Donaldson
Inspector General

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Vision

We serve the Nation through our quality and independent work, our talented workforce, and our innovative approaches to create positive change and to make good Government better.

We establish relationships with decision makers to understand their priorities and to promote positive change based on our findings.

Mission

We strengthen the integrity, economy, and efficiency of the Department's programs and operations, including deterring and detecting fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement.

We provide reliable and credible information to Congress, Department officials, the Department of Justice, and the public. This information identifies areas of risk and vulnerability, opportunities for improvement, and evidence of wrongdoing.

We have authority to inquire into all Department programs and activities, including the activities of recipients of Department money.

Impact

Our information allows officials to hold wrongdoers accountable, recover wasted taxpayer dollars, and improve programs and operations.

We make recommendations to address our findings.

We provide evidence that allows decision makers to hold wrongdoers accountable.

OIG Strategy

Goal 1: Our People

Be an employer of choice by cultivating a diverse, skilled, and engaged workforce, and fostering an inclusive, collaborative environment

1. Recognize and celebrate the success of employees
2. Improve employee engagement and communication with employees
3. Advance a culture of inclusiveness at all levels by fostering a fair, open, diverse, and cooperative working environment
4. Prioritize training, development, and opportunities for advancement for personnel

Goal 2: Our Work

Conduct independent oversight to strengthen the integrity, economy, and efficiency of Department programs, and to deter and detect fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement

1. Conduct independent and impactful oversight programs that are accurate and timely
2. Ensure that OIG oversight reviews are based on a solid legal foundation
3. Assist the Department and the National Nuclear Security Administration in developing a more robust administrative remedies program by providing accurate, timely, and impactful referrals and supporting the decisions of the suspension and debarment officials
4. Perform real time data analytics in both Federal and contractor systems to support OIG's Offices of Investigations; Audits; and Inspections, Intelligence Oversight, and Special Projects with proactive analyses focused on early detection and prevention of major risks
5. Utilize a team-based, cross-functional approach to oversight for the most challenging high-risk projects

Goal 3: Our Operations

Modernize OIG operations through innovation and technology

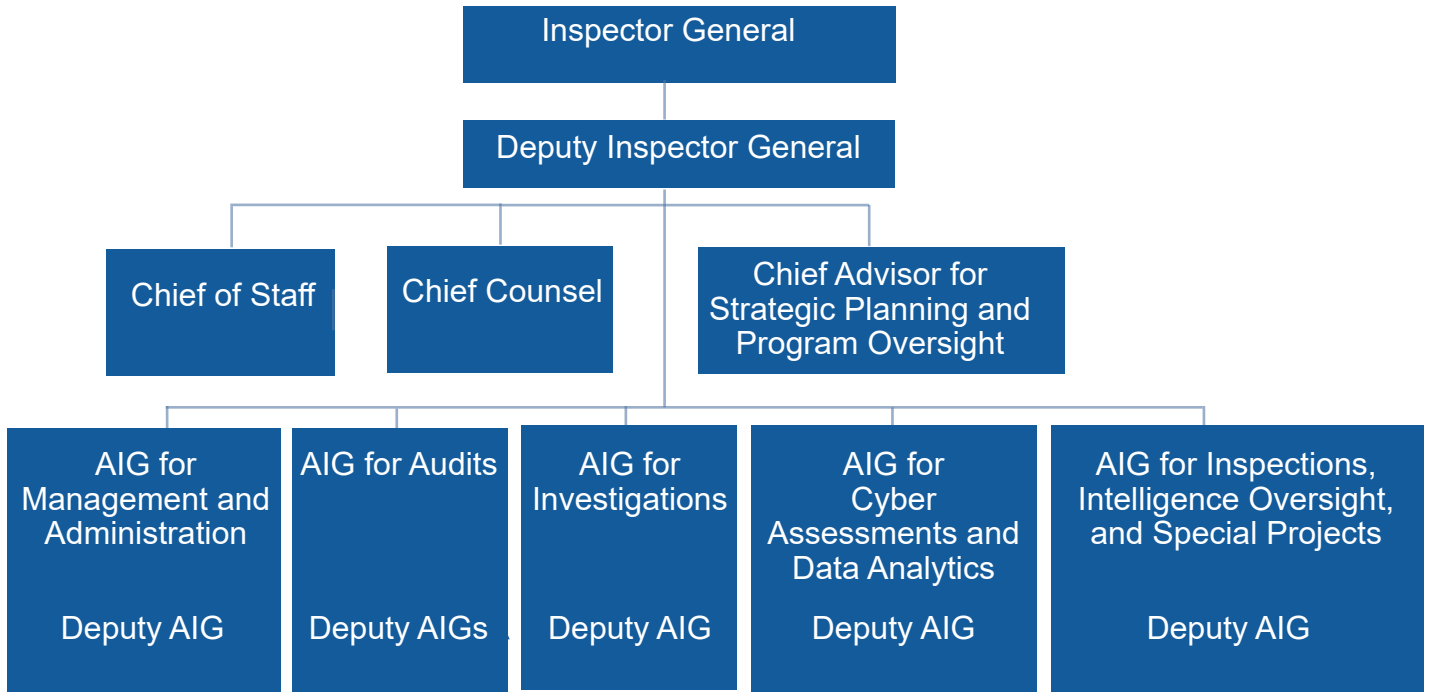
1. Develop and deploy innovative information technology to strengthen OIG mission accomplishment
2. Strategically manage the OIG's organizational growth

Goal 4: Our Stakeholders

Enhance mission success through effective outreach, stakeholder engagement, and coalition building

1. Continue to improve communications with stakeholders, including the Department and Congress

OIG Structure and Locations

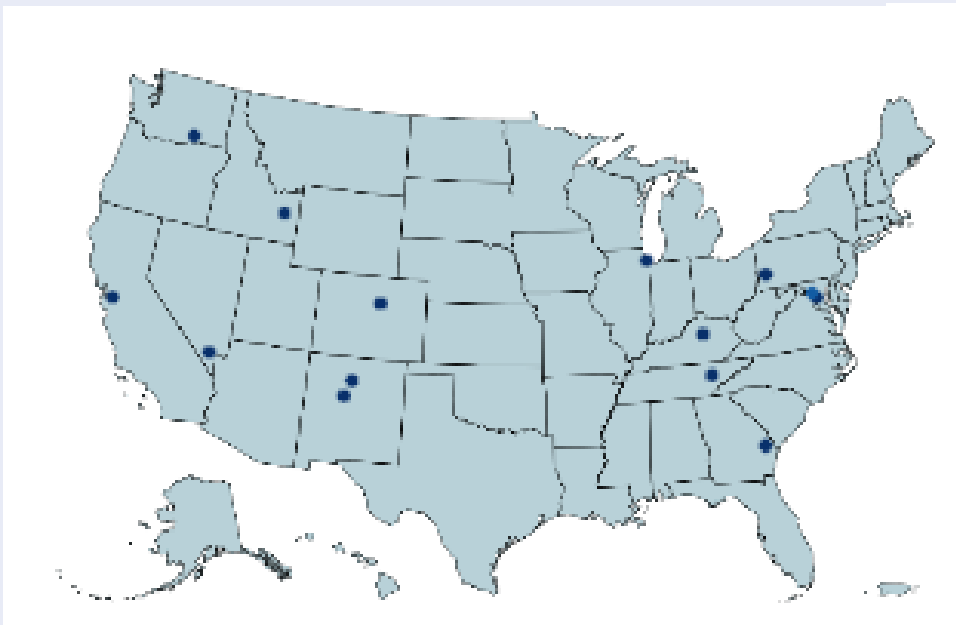


OIG’s Headquarters is in Washington, DC, with Field Offices in:

- Livermore, CA
- Denver, CO
- Idaho Falls, ID
- Chicago, IL
- Lexington, KY
- Germantown, MD
- Las Vegas, NV
- Albuquerque, NM
- Los Alamos, NM
- Pittsburgh, PA
- Savannah River, SC
- Oak Ridge, TN
- Richland, WA

Abbreviations that appear in this report:

- Assistant Inspector General (AIG)
- Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE)
- Cyber Assessments and Data Analytics (CADA)
- Department of Energy (Department)
- Government Accountability Office (GAO)
- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
- Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)
- Inspector General (IG)
- Management and Administration (MA)
- Management and operating (M&O)
- National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL)
- National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA)
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL)
- Office of Audits (OA)
- Office of Investigations (OI)
- Office of Inspections, Intelligence Oversight, and Special Projects (OIIS)
- Office of Inspector General (OIG)
- Office of Management and Budget (OMB)



The Department

Mission

The Department's mission is to ensure America's security and prosperity by addressing its energy, environmental, and nuclear challenges through transformative science and technology solutions.

Department programs and activities are run by multiple program offices, staff offices, operations offices, National Laboratories, and Federal Power Marketing Administrations.



Photo courtesy of the Department of Energy

Nuclear Security

- Nuclear nonproliferation
- Naval reactors
- Counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation
- Defense nuclear security
- Nuclear and radiological emergency response

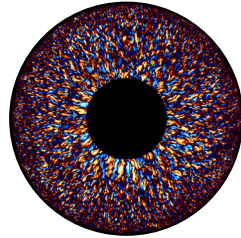


Photo courtesy of the Department of Energy

Research and Development of Energy Technologies

- Office of Science
- Electricity
- Nuclear energy
- Fossil energy and carbon management
- Arctic energy
- Energy efficiency and renewable energy
- Artificial intelligence and technology

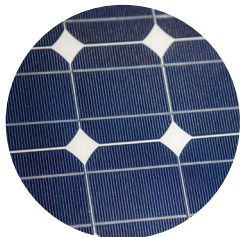


Photo courtesy of the Department of Energy

Clean Energy Solutions

- Loans
- Indian energy
- Clean energy demonstrations
- Cybersecurity, energy security, and emergency response
- Federal energy management



Photo courtesy of the Department of Energy

Environmental Management

- Cleanup of radioactive and hazardous waste materials, including:
 - Contaminated building deactivation and decommissioning
 - Soil and groundwater decontamination
 - Radioactive liquid waste treatment

Money



\$ 50 billion
about
\$100 billion
more than
\$400 billion

in FY 2024 appropriations
in supplemental appropriations
in loan authority available

\$534 billion
\$232 billion

approximate environmental liability
estimated cost for nuclear force plans through 2032

OIG Work

Our Products and Services



Audit, Inspection, Evaluation, and Special Reports

We report the findings of our oversight work to the Department, Congress, and the public. Through our reports, we provide reliable and credible financial and performance information and make recommendations for improvement to decision makers.

Our work provides oversight of Department organizations, programs, and operations; its operational efficiency, effectiveness, and vulnerabilities; assessments of cybersecurity; and determinations of the allowability, allocability, and reasonableness of the costs incurred by the Department's unique M&O contractors. These contractors operate the Department's National Laboratories and other operational facilities.



Investigative Reports and Information

We address alleged violations of law that impact Department programs, operations, facilities, and personnel. We prioritize suspected violations of criminal and civil statutes, as well as serious administrative misconduct. Our investigative findings provide fact-based evidence to officials with the authority to hold wrongdoers accountable. We work closely with the Department of Justice and other Federal, state, and local law enforcement organizations, and make recommendations to Department officials to improve the economy and efficiency of programs and operations.



Suspension and Debarment Referrals

We refer matters to suspension and debarment authorities to help ensure program and operational integrity. These referrals also provide forward-looking protection to the rest of Government by rendering suspended or debarred parties ineligible from engaging in new Federal Government grants, contracts, loans, and other legal agreements.



Outreach and Prevention

We conduct outreach to senior officials, Department employees, and non-governmental recipients of Department funds to raise awareness of risks to Department programs and funding and to inform them of their obligations to report suspected wrongdoing to us.



Hotline Complaints

Our Hotline facilitates the reporting and resolution of allegations received from Department employees, contractors, and the public. Allegations may lead to an investigation, audit, or inspection; referral to the Department for review and action; or referral to another Federal agency.



Whistleblower Protection

We take proactive steps to educate Department employees about their rights and responsibilities to report suspected wrongdoing and laws that prohibit retaliation for doing so, and we investigate allegations of retaliation.

The Sources of Our Work

Proactive Analysis

Data analytics

Human intelligence (professional judgment and institutional knowledge)

Risk analysis

Regulatory requirements

Leadership Requests

Congress

The Secretary and senior Department officials

Credible Allegations

Hotline complaints from employees, contractors, and the public

Disclosures made by whistleblowers

What We Review

Wrongdoing

Violations of criminal statutes

Violations of civil statutes

Administrative misconduct

Efficiency, Effectiveness, and Compliance

Financial transactions

Management and performance

Costs incurred by M&O contractors

Security

Research security

Cybersecurity

Intelligence and counterintelligence activities

Risks and Priorities

We prioritize areas of high importance to our stakeholders and those that pose the greatest risk of financial loss or negative impact on the Department’s mission.

High Risks

Loans Three recent legislative actions expanded the Department’s total loan authority to more than \$400 billion. The loan packages are on an accelerated schedule. An estimated \$290 billion will expire on September 30, 2026. There is no precedent in the Department for this level and pace of financing. Many of these loans are designed to promote innovation by financing projects not otherwise acceptable by private equity investors—projects the markets do not view as acceptable.



Procurement

The Department is one of the largest civilian contracting agencies in the Federal Government, and it relies on contractors to execute much of its mission. In addition, as of August 2024, the Department announced more than \$67 billion in non-loan funding opportunities, out of its approximately \$100 billion in supplemental appropriations. Challenges in safeguarding procurement funds put them at risk of loss to fraud, waste, and mismanagement, and jeopardize the mission.



Management and Operating Contracts The Department is the only Federal agency to use M&O contractors to run and oversee research and development centers. M&O contracts pose unique risks because they have less competition, broad scopes of work, and closer relationships between the contractor and Government. Until FY 2022, when the OIG took responsibility for audits of M&O contractor’s incurred costs, the contractors self-certified that their costs were allowable, allocable, and reasonable.

Grants The Department reported that it selected more than \$50 billion in IIJA and IRA awards as of August 2024. Risks include awarding funds to entities that: (1) have not been thoroughly vetted; (2) are not eligible under grant criteria; (3) have foreign entanglements; or (4) “double dip” from different Federal funding sources for the same project. Untested internal controls, lack of funding for oversight, the use of new funding vehicles, and insufficient data exacerbate these risks.



Research Security The Department engages in cutting-edge research that expands scientific knowledge, generates new technologies to address energy challenges, and strengthens national security by maintaining and modernizing the nuclear stockpile. This research is inherently vulnerable to the unauthorized transfer of intellectual property to foreign adversaries.



Cybersecurity The Department oversees critical energy infrastructure and nuclear programs, which necessarily involve complex information technology systems. Vulnerabilities in security over industrial control systems, cloud computing, and Zero Trust architecture create risks from access by foreign adversaries and others with potentially nefarious intentions.



\$534 Billion Environmental Liability The Department’s environmental liability continues to be a significant challenge. Decades of nuclear weapons production and nuclear energy research created dangerous radioactive sites, with thousands of contaminated facilities, including contaminated soil and groundwater. As of 2022, the Department is responsible for about 83 percent of the Federal Government’s total estimated future environmental cleanup and waste disposal costs. (2023 Financial Statements of the U.S. Government).

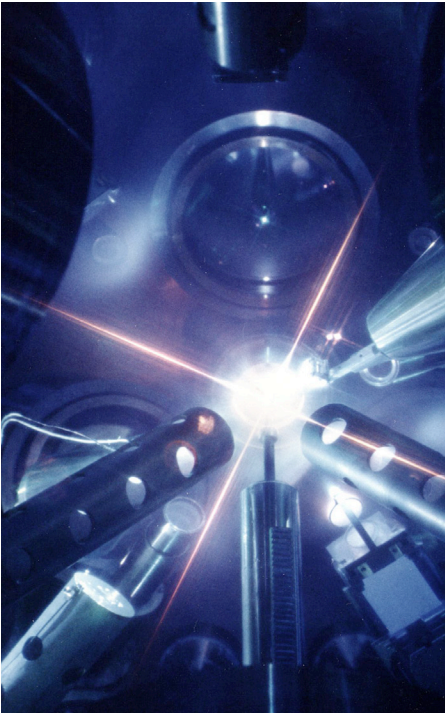


Photo courtesy of the Department of Energy

Our Impact: The Numbers

Almost \$1 billion in monetary findings from investigations, audits, inspections, and evaluations. This amount includes:

	\$814.4 million	in questioned, unsupported, and unresolved costs
	\$122.7 million	in funds put to better use
	\$ 25.1 million	in restitution, funds returned to the Department, penalties, and court costs

Our actions

Select actions by others based on our work

Actions taken by others may include action on work performed in a prior year.

	45	Reports issued
	74	Investigative cases closed
	183	Recommendations for improvements
	479	Hotline predications for evaluation
	27	Suspension/Debarment referrals

	23	Administrative discipline and other management actions
	34	Referrals accepted for prosecution
	9	Criminal convictions
	13	Civil actions
	37	Suspensions/Debarments




This number includes proposed debarments issued under the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR). We report proposed debarments under FAR because those actions have the same effect as a debarment or suspension in accordance with 48 Code of Federal Regulations 9.405. Insofar as we are reporting these numbers to show the effect of the OIG referrals, proposed debarment under the FAR presents a more complete picture. Note, however, that proposed debarments under the FAR are not final actions.

Our Impact: Investigative Highlights



The OIG's investigative work addressed some of the highest-risk areas in the Department, including contracts, grants, and research security. It resulted in positive impacts for the Department and American public, including financial benefits, national security enhancement, and accountability for wrongdoing. The highlights described below illustrate a few specific positive impacts.

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Findings From OIG Cases	Financial	Accountability	Mission & Operations
			
<p><i>The Department de-obligated a \$100 million IJJA grant award after the OIG identified that the grantee was under investigation for exporting equipment to a Chinese company.</i></p>	<p>\$100 million IJJA grant de-obligated</p>	<p>The investigation is on-going</p>	<p>The potential violation of U.S. export control laws and regulations for exporting semiconductor manufacturing equipment to a Chinese company and the failure to disclose the on-going investigation on the pre-application award sheet have national security and procurement integrity implications</p>
<p><i>An M&O contractor knowingly submitted false claims for time not worked. The contractor entered into a Settlement Agreement and individuals faced disciplinary action, including terminations.</i></p>	<p>\$18.4 million Settlement Agreement</p>	<p>46 debarments 135 employee suspensions 48 terminations</p>	<p>130 security clearances were suspended or revoked, which enhances security</p>
<p><i>A Department grantee entered into a Criminal Remediation Agreement in exchange for declination of prosecution for anti-competitive behavior that it engaged in to obtain CHIPS and Science Act funding.</i></p>	<p>\$11 million grant opportunity not subject to required competition due to agreement by applicants not to compete</p>	<p>The grantee agreed to implement compliance controls to prevent and detect similar antitrust violations in the future—this investigation is on-going</p>	<p>Projects under this grant are intended to promote advanced manufacturing jobs; and the criminal remediation agreement decreases the likelihood of future anti-competitive behavior while avoiding collateral consequences for grant purposes</p>
<p><i>A contractor improperly, through its subsidiaries, received U.S. Government contracts that should have been set aside for small businesses. It entered into a Civil Settlement Agreement to settle civil fraud allegations.</i></p>	<p>\$1.8 million Civil Settlement Agreement</p>	<p>117 contracts (2 with the Department) awarded inappropriately to a contractor that does not meet the criteria for small business set asides</p>	<p>20 Federal agencies involved; and the goal of increasing opportunities for small businesses is harmed</p>
<p><i>A contractor pleaded guilty to tax evasion for a scheme to receive 70 percent of weatherization work in exchange for providing 50 percent of the profits to Community Action Committee Director.</i></p>	<p>\$700,000 taxes due \$2.7 million in profits inappropriately split</p>	<p>Contractor pleaded guilty to tax evasion—this investigation is on-going</p>	<p>Funding to weatherize homes for low-income families was used for personal gain, negatively impacting the ability to assist low-income families</p>

*Items may include cumulative totals from prior years for on-going cases and/or amounts not included in the OIG's calculation of monetary impact.

Our Impact: Audit, Evaluation, and Inspection Highlights

The OIG's audit, inspection, evaluation, and intelligence work addressed some of the highest-risk areas in the Department, including contracts and subcontracts, grants, and cybersecurity. It resulted in positive impacts for the Department and American public, including implementation of fraud prevention controls, cost avoidance, and reduced risk of electricity disruption. The highlights described below illustrate a few positive impacts.



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Findings From OIG Reports	Financial	Management	Mission & Operations
<p><i>Lessons learned from pandemic recovery fraud were not being implemented by the Department, leaving the \$4.257 billion Home Energy Rebate Program at risk of fraud.</i></p>	<p>\$4 billion at unnecessary risk of fraud</p>	<p>The Department took several actions during the course of the OIG's review to improve fraud prevention controls</p>	<p>Funding lost to fraud is unavailable to meet the program purposes, which is to provide money to homeowners for improvements that will reduce energy consumption and, thereby, costs</p>
<p><i>The UChicago Argonne, LLC failed to audit \$73.6 million in subcontract costs at the Department's Argonne National Laboratory (ANL). A total of \$232.5 million, including these subcontract costs, require further review.</i></p>	<p>\$232.5 million in contract costs require further review</p>	<p>We made recommendations, which the Department fully concurred with, to address inconsistencies with indirect cost accounting, inaccuracies in disclosed practices, and internal control weaknesses in payroll and consulting agreement transactions</p>	<p>Inefficient use of contract dollars reduces resources available for Argonne National Laboratory's research on basic energy sciences, nuclear physics, fusion energy sciences, computational and technology research, and related sciences; and ineffective internal controls increases the risk of fraud</p>
<p><i>NNSA paid \$6.7 million to a contractor for guaranteed energy savings without validating that the energy savings were received.</i></p>	<p>\$2.5 million in cost avoidance for taxpayers</p>	<p>NNSA took immediate action to stop service activity when we determined multiple payments to a contractor for goods and services that were intended to produce energy savings were not received, and NNSA made improvements to its oversight and review processes</p>	<p>Anticipated reduction in energy use and associated cost savings will not be realized</p>
<p><i>We identified weaknesses in nearly one-third of the 153 cybersecurity controls tested in the transmission infrastructure systems of the Bonneville Power Administration, which it took actions to address during our review.</i></p>	<p>Avoidance of costs associated with cybersecurity incidents</p>	<p>Management has initiated enhancements to configuration management practices to address weaknesses identified during our review</p>	<p>Reduced risk of disruption for millions of electricity customers</p>

FY 2024 Performance Results

This section contains leadership commitments and quantitative measures for OIG leaders to hold themselves and the organization accountable for achieving strategic goals and addressing external challenges.

✓ A check mark indicates that the commitment or quantitative target has been met.

The OIG made enough progress on following two strategic initiatives from FY 2022 that we could transition them to an operational status.

✓ Increase the Department's cooperation with the OIG

The OIG made significant progress in increasing the Department's cooperation with the OIG through persistent action to obtain agency records—including contractor records, training about employee rights and responsibilities for cooperating with the OIG, and proactive outreach to Department officials.

In March 2024, the last of 10 prime M&O contractors complied with a March 2022 OIG request. A 2-year delay is unacceptable. In April 2024, the OIG described the importance of timely access to data—including M&O contractor data—in a Congressionally directed report on the OIG's data analytics program. Such data is critical for fraud prevention and detection for the tens of billions of dollars that go to M&O contractors each year, as well as for the rest of the Department's budget. For example, our analysis primarily of one contractor that did cooperate with an OIG data request resulted in 20 active criminal investigations, indictments, and convictions specific to COVID-era fraud.

The Secretary mandated IG 101 training for all Department employees. This training instructs employees about their rights and responsibilities for reporting fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement to the OIG, and it helps them to recognize fraud indicators and schemes. It also reminds them of their responsibility to cooperate with the OIG.

As the OIG moves toward constructing a dedicated, permanent Sensitive Compartmented Information Facility (SCIF) to handle classified information, we secured dedicated interim Department office space with classified terminals.

✓ Conduct independent incurred cost audits

The Department uses M&O contracts to run and oversee its research and development centers. These contracts were valued at \$33.3 billion in FY 2023. The incurred cost audit is the most critical audit measure available to ensure that Federal contractors are not overpaid, resulting in fraud, waste, or abuse. The OIG established an Incurred Cost Audits Division in FY 2022 to conduct independent audits of costs incurred by high-risk M&O contractors.

From 1994 to 2022, under the Cooperative Audit Strategy between the Department and the OIG, the Department's M&O contractors conducted the required audits of their own Statements of Costs Incurred and Claimed. We questioned whether contractors assigned with the authority and responsibility for performing their own audits could be independent and, therefore, whether such audits could be effective. The Council of Inspectors General for Integrity and Efficiency agreed with us that internal auditors employed by the contractors cannot provide adequate assurance that payments to the contractor were proper.

In FY 2024, just 2 years after organizing a new division, the OIG engaged all applicable M&O contractors in active incurred cost audits. The OIG also performed a limited number of real-time labor testing audits and Cost Accounting Standards (CAS) Disclosure Statement Adequacy reviews. Future enhancements to the program, dependent on additional appropriated funding, will expand audit coverage in these areas and perform other related efforts such as CAS Disclosure Statement Compliance Audits, CAS compliance audits, system audits, and real-time material testing. These activities are vital to ensure that billions of dollars in taxpayer funding are used to further the important missions of the Department, as directed by Congress.

FY 2024 Performance Results



Goal 1: Our People

Be an employer of choice by cultivating a diverse, skilled, and engaged workforce and fostering an inclusive, collaborative environment

✓ **Demonstrated progress in developing and maintaining a proactive communication plan**

Timely acknowledgment of employee excellence using OIG recognition programs

The OIG takes pride in the excellence demonstrated by its staff. The OIG’s Honorary Awards recognized the work of 93 employees. Additionally, throughout the year, OIG program offices recognized employee excellence with “Special Act” and “On-the-Spot” awards.

Implement actions to address items identified by the Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey; Employee Council; Employee Engagement and Innovation Committee, or other mechanisms

The OIG conducted a benchmarking study to determine best practices in the broader OIG community for career ladder promotions. Based on this study, the OIG developed one consistent policy across the organization to ensure consistent criteria and application of that criteria, and to remain competitive with other OIGs when recruiting and retaining top performing employees.

✓ **Demonstrated completion of training and development plans for staff**

Measure	FY 24 Target	FY 24 Actual	FY 25 Target
Staff who submit Individual Development Plans on time	95%	100%	95%
Annual performance plans established on time	95%	100%	95%
Annual performance appraisals completed on time	95%	100%	95%

Commitment to support staff in voluntary development programs

The OIG showed its commitment to leadership development by investing in its future leaders. Key investments in FY 2024 included selecting staff to participate in both internal and external programs. Additionally, OIG-wide training reinforced important knowledge and skills for supervisors.



Two OIG employees were accepted into the Department’s Leadership Development Program.



OI ran a Leadership Development Program led by a program coordinator. For the first time, OI opened the program to all interested OI employees. In FY 2024, activities included:



CADA conducted 360-surveys for all supervisors to facilitate growth in leadership skills.

- a series of monthly discussions on topics ranging from characteristics of leaders who participants would like to emulate to what it means to be a leader in today’s world;
- attending a prestigious leadership training run by the Lincoln Leadership Institute; and
- updating IG 101 training, which all Department employees are required to take, with current cases.



MA planned and began delivering learning sessions for supervisors OIG-wide focused on topics such as promotions, performance management, and reasonable accommodations.

FY 2024 Performance Results



Goal 2: Our Work

Conduct independent oversight to strengthen the integrity, economy, and efficiency of Department programs and to deter and detect fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement

✓ **Percentage of high-impact written products delivered to stakeholders within established timeframes**

Measure	FY 24 Target	FY 24 Actual	FY 25 Target
High-impact written products delivered to stakeholders within established timeframes	35% (CADA, OI, OIIS, OA)	CADA: 100% OI: 100% OIIS: 71% OA: 56%	50% (CADA, OI, OIIS, OA)
Cases closed after being open more than 365 days that have a reportable outcome	55%	70%	60%
Products issued that address top Management Challenges, Department high-risk areas, or OIG mission priorities	85% (OIIS, OA, CADA)	OIIS: 100% OA: 100% CADA: 100%	90% (OIIS, OA, CADA)
Cases opened that are in pre-established priority areas	90%	93%	90%
Discretionary reports that result in improvement to Department operations, programs, or projects as demonstrated by corrective actions taken during the engagement or the inclusion of findings, suggestions, or recommendations in the report	90% (OIIS, OA, CADA)	OIIS: 100% OA: 100% CADA: 100%	90% (OIIS, OA, CADA)
Hotline complaints processed for OIG leadership disposition decision within 14 days of receipt of complaint	95%	100%	95%
Initiate allegation-based inspections and whistleblower investigations within prescribed number of days of receiving complaints from the Hotline or any other contact with the OIG	within 60 days	100%	within 60 days

✓ **Ensure the Office of Counsel provides legal expertise to advance the OIG mission**

To ensure accountability, the OIG relies on external parties with the authority to take action on our findings. The OIG developed new and improved existing proactive programs to encourage such action. First, the OIG established a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney program to hire experienced prosecutors who apply their knowledge to Department OIG matters. By bringing materials developed with a prosecutor’s perspective to the Department of Justice, this program facilitates Department of Justice’s ability to prosecute substantive OIG cases. Additionally, the OIG clarified information in suspension and debarment referral packages to encourage action by the Department. Finally, the OIG coordinated with the Department’s legal counsel to obtain access to contractor information that is necessary for our oversight work.

✓ **Demonstrated effective use of a team-based, cross-functional approach for oversight of the most challenging high-risk areas**

In FY 2024, the OIG worked successfully as cross-functional teams in these major strategic areas:



IJA and IRA oversight



Timekeeping fraud initiative



Research security initiative



Data analytics

For example, an internal Task Force composed of senior staff throughout the OIG reviewed 102 labor-related allegations that originated from 45 different contractors. The OIG also issued a cross-functional report that focused on using data analytics to identify fraud based on lessons learned from the Pandemic Relief Programs on IRA’s Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program (DOE-OIG-24-31). This product was the joint work of OI, OIIS, and CADA.

FY 2024 Performance Results



Goal 3: Our Operations

Modernize OIG operations through innovation and technology

✓ Demonstrated increased capabilities and outcomes from deployment of innovative technology

Measure	FY 24 Target	FY 24 Actual	FY 25 Target
Number of proactive analytic projects using data to identify high-risk areas or areas of concern for further analysis and review by OA, OIIS, or OI	5	16	5

Additionally, 10 percent of OI's cases were proactively originated through findings from OIG's data analytics.

✓ Demonstrated strategic management of OIG organizational growth

Measure	FY 24 Target	FY 24 Actual	FY 25 Target
Develop an OIG operating budget within prescribed number of business days of enactment of the annual FY appropriation	30 days	24 days	30 days



Photo courtesy of Adobe Stock, 2024

FY 2024 Performance Results



Goal 4: Our Stakeholders

Enhance mission success through effective outreach, stakeholder engagement, and coalition building

The OIG committed to establishing an engaged and proactive dialogue with our stakeholders in Congress, OMB, and with Department leadership. The OIG also takes every opportunity to educate our broad spectrum of stakeholders on the risks of fraud, waste, and abuse in Department programs, and it employs prevention strategies and detection techniques.



Demonstrated results in improved communications with external stakeholders

Hold outreach meetings with OMB and Congressional committees on challenges, risks, successes, and opportunities

OIG leadership met not only with our direct OMB and Congressional stakeholders, but also engaged with other Intelligence Community (IC) Inspectors General to brief Congressional stakeholders on strategic and operational barriers that threaten the independence of oversight organizations in the IC.

The OIG also made key contributions to legislative proposals that impact the entire CIGIE community.

Increase coordination and collaboration with other Intelligence Community Inspectors General

The OIG secured from the Department, for the first time, IC Blue Badges. These badges allow for more timely access to buildings for meetings with others in the IC, increasing the efficiency and effectiveness of OIG oversight.

The OIG also initiated its first joint inspection with the IC Inspector General.

Engage with counterparts in the law enforcement and oversight community to increase collaboration

The OIG continued to lead the CIGIE Working Group on the IIJA. IG Donaldson co-chairs this working group, which organizes an impactful coordination and outreach initiative to other Federal OIGs, as well as state, local, and tribal stakeholders. We led monthly meetings with 12 Federal OIGs that received IIJA appropriations; shared and compared oversight strategies and work to leverage the OIG community's expertise to improve oversight; and led outreach efforts to improve communication and coordination with state, local, and tribal stakeholders. In this capacity, OIG leadership organized monthly meetings and has built meaningful bridges with the National Association of State Auditors, Controllers, and Treasurers; the GAO; OMB; and other interested stakeholders.

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FY 2024 Performance Results



Goal 4: Our Stakeholders

Enhance mission success through effective outreach, stakeholder engagement, and coalition building

✓ **Demonstrated results in improved communications with external stakeholders (continued)**

Measure	FY 24 Target	FY 24 Actual	FY 25 Target
Number of fraud and cyber awareness briefings conducted to educate and inform Department employees, contractors, and grant recipients of the OIG mission and means of submitting allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse	79 briefings	258 briefings	98 briefings
Legal services provided in accordance with current law within established timeframes under the Whistleblower Protection Program	91%	100%	91%

In FY 2024 alone, we more than doubled total Fraud Awareness Briefings delivered since the passage of IJA and IRA.

We delivered more than 500 outreach briefings since November 2021, reaching more than 12,000 employees, contractors, and grant recipients. This includes 258 briefings delivered to almost 5,000 individuals in FY 2024.

✓ **Demonstrated results in improved communication with top Department leadership**

Proactively coordinate and collaborate with Department leadership on the front end of oversight activities

Meet with Department leadership to address concerns or critical matters, share information, or clarify issues

In FY 2024, OIG leadership continued to meet regularly with Department leadership to discuss priorities, concerns, and solutions. OIG established quarterly meetings with the Secretary’s office, monthly meetings at the Undersecretary level, and recurring scheduled meetings with Department Counsel to maintain relationships, share information, and discuss critical matters.