



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

APR 18 2016

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

The Honorable James M. Inhofe  
Chairman  
Committee on Environment and Public Works  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
Chairman  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Inhofe and Chairman Roberts:

Thank you for your letter dated April 5, 2016, requesting that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) review the EPA's cooperative agreement and grant to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission to specifically determine:

1. Whether EPA has followed applicable laws, regulations, and policies in awarding this cooperative agreement/grant to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission;
2. Whether EPA has followed applicable laws, regulations, and policies in performing required oversight of this cooperative agreement/grant awarded to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; including receiving copies of any required reports or work products. Please include a summary of any material weaknesses or lack of institutional controls that contributed to any such lack of oversight;
3. Whether the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission (and any subgrantees) has followed applicable laws, regulations, and policies in performing and implementing this cooperative agreement/grant award;
4. Whether any of the costs or expenses associated with the cooperative agreement/grant to Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission are unallowed, including those associated with the "What's Upstream" advocacy campaign. For any such unallowed costs, please provide a detailed summary and whether any such costs have been recovered; and
5. Whether EPA has had any communication with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and/or Strategies 360 regarding the "What's Upstream" advocacy campaign."

As noted in our fiscal year 2016 Annual Plan, we planned to start preliminary research in 2016 on three grants totaling \$20.5 million that were awarded to the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission. We cited that we would seek to determine whether the costs claimed under the grants are reasonable, allowable

and allocable in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and grant terms and conditions, and the objectives of the grant were met. In response to your request, we will ensure that your specific questions are addressed in the OIG's audit.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the OIG. If you should have any questions on this or any other matter, please contact Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General, at (202) 566-2391.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arthur A. Elkins Jr.", written in a cursive style.

Arthur A. Elkins Jr.