

Inspector General Community Launches Oversight.gov to Increase Accessibility to Reports

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August 15, 2017

On August 2, 2017, the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) launched [Oversight.gov](#), a central repository for Office of Inspector General (OIG) reports that is intended to “improve the public’s access to independent and authoritative information about the Federal Government.” The website is currently being [beta tested](#). As of August 2, 2017, 36 of 73 OIGs were participating in the beta test (**Table 1**). The establishment of, and participation in, the website is not statutorily required.

Oversight.gov is intended to be the first one-stop shop for OIG reports. [Section 8M\(b\)\(1\)](#) of the Inspectors General Act of 1978, as amended, requires all OIG audit, evaluation, or inspection reports to be posted on individual OIG respective websites. Several factors, however, may affect the accessibility and utility of reports on individual OIG websites. For example, OIG reports might be difficult to locate due to varied website layouts and the lack of keyword search functions. Further, it may be difficult to compare report findings and recommendations across OIGs for similar or shared issues, such as [compliance with the Federal Information Security Management Act \(FISMA\)](#).

Table 1. OIG Participation in Oversight.gov Beta Test

As of August 14, 2017

Participating OIGs	Non-participating OIGs
AbilityOne Commission	Agency for International Development
Amtrak	Architect of the Capitol
Appalachian Regional Commission	Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau
Consumer Product Safety Commission	Central Intelligence Agency
Corporation for National & Community Service	Commodity Futures Trading Commission
Denali Commission	Corporation for Public Broadcasting

Participating OIGs	Non-participating OIGs
Department of Defense	Defense Intelligence Agency
Department of Education	Department of Agriculture
Department of Energy	Department of Commerce
Department of Homeland Security	Department of Health and Human Services
Department of Housing and Urban Development	Department of the Treasury
Department of Justice	Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
Department of Labor	Farm Credit Administration
Department of State and Broadcasting Board of Governors	Federal Communications Commission
Department of the Interior	Federal Election Commission
Department of Transportation	Federal Housing Finance Agency
Department of Veterans Affairs	Federal Labor Relations Authority
Election Assistance Commission	Federal Trade Commission
Environmental Protection Agency	Government Accountability Office
Export-Import Bank	Government Publishing Office
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation	Legal Services Corporation
Federal Maritime Commission	Library of Congress
General Services Administration	National Archives and Records Administration
International Trade Commission	National Endowment for the Arts
National Aeronautics and Space Administration	National Endowment for the Humanities
National Credit Union Administration	National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency
National Science Foundation	National Labor Relations Board
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	National Reconnaissance Office
Office of Personnel Management	National Security Agency
Peace Corps	Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community
Small Business Administration	Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation
Smithsonian Institution	Postal Regulatory Commission
Social Security Administration	U.S. Railroad Retirement Board
Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction	U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
	Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program

Source: Oversight.gov and <https://www.ignet.gov/content/inspectors-general-directory>.

Content of Oversight.gov

Reports

Oversight.gov currently features a database of [reports](#) authored by participating OIGs from 2000 through the present, including audits, inspections/evaluations, investigations, semiannual reports, and other reviews. All reports are uploaded directly by the authoring OIG. A notable feature of the website is the

search function—users can generate a customized list of reports based on multiple data elements, such as the agency OIG, report type, or keyword (**Figure 1**). Customized searches are not typically available on individual OIG websites.

Oversight.gov also provides a standard [data summary](#) for each posted report that includes, among other things (1) the number of OIG recommendations; (2) “[Questioned costs](#),” or total agency costs questioned by the OIG; and (3) “[Funds for Better Use](#),” or potential cost savings/avoidances anticipated upon implementing OIG recommendations.

Aggregate Data

In addition to reports, Oversight.gov includes graphics of aggregate data on OIG audits and investigations. Some graphics include community-wide data, whereas others include data from participating OIGs only. For example, the [investigations](#) tab depicts the total number of successful criminal prosecutions that resulted from *all* OIG investigations between FY2011 and FY2015 (as reported in CIGIE’s [Annual Report to the President](#)). In contrast, the [reports](#) tab appears to depict the total number of *participating* OIG recommendations from FY2012 to FY2017.

OIG Open Recommendations

At present, Oversight.gov does not include a database of open recommendations—those that have not been adopted or implemented by the affiliated agency. OIG semiannual reports, which are posted on the website, are [statutorily required](#) to include information on some, but not all, open recommendations. The Department of Justice OIG uploaded to Oversight.gov a separate [annual compendium](#) of open Department of Justice OIG recommendations. Other OIGs have published similar reports, but have not uploaded them to the website (e.g., [Department of Defense](#)) or are not yet participating in the beta test (e.g., [Department of Health & Human Services](#)).

Figure 1. Oversight.gov Search Functions for OIG Reports
As of August 14, 2017

Inspector General Reports

Report Date	Agency Reviewed/Investigated	Title	Type	Location
08/10/2017	Department of Justice	Victim Assistance and Victim Compensation Formula Grants Awarded to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety Office of Justice Programs	Audit	MN, US
08/10/2017	United States Postal Service OIG	Delayed Mail Validation	Audit	US
08/10/2017	Department of Veterans Affairs	Inspection of the VA Regional Office New Orleans, Louisiana	Inspection / Evaluation	LA, US
08/10/2017	Department of Veterans Affairs	Inspection of the VA Regional Office Atlanta, Georgia	Inspection / Evaluation	GA, US
08/10/2017	Department of Veterans Affairs	Review of Alleged Failure of the National Work Queue To Perform in Production	Audit	US
08/09/2017	Environmental Protection Agency	Management Alert: Concerns Over Compliance, Accountability and Consistency Identified With EPA's Biweekly Pay Cap Waiver Process	Audit	US
08/09/2017	Export-Import Bank Office of Inspector General	2012, Oct 1-OIG_Report_Spring_2013_Final508b-and-Mgmt-Ltr-Pt-2	Semiannual Report	Agency-Wide
08/09/2017	Export-Import Bank Office of Inspector General	2012, April 1-SARC-Web-Post	Semiannual Report	Agency-Wide
08/09/2017	Export-Import Bank Office of Inspector General	2013, Oct 1-OIG_Report_Spring14_final_508	Semiannual Report	Agency-Wide
08/09/2017	Export-Import Bank Office of Inspector General	2014, April 4-OIG_Report_FA_Final_508	Semiannual Report	Agency-Wide

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 ... next last

Displaying 1 - 10 of 3120

Filter Options

Use the control below to filter the list of Inspector General reports. Click on the heading to view the filter choices.

Current Filter:
• Country • US

► Date Range

► Report Location

▼ Report Type

Select multiple items by holding CONTROL or SHIFT keys while clicking.

select the type to filter

Audit
CIGIE Report
Inspection / Evaluation
Investigation

▼ OIG

Select multiple items by holding CONTROL or SHIFT keys while clicking.

select the submitting OIG to filter

AbilityOne Office of Inspector General
Amtrak (National Railroad Passenger Corp
Appalachian Regional Commission OIG
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve

► Report Number

► Keywords

Show me: 10 reports at a time

Source: Oversight.gov/reports.

Recent Congressional Actions on OIG Report Transparency

In recent years, Congress has taken steps to enhance the transparency and oversight of OIG reports, particularly recommendations. Most notably, Congress passed the [IG Empowerment Act of 2016](#), which requires OIGs to, among other things, submit to Congress all documents containing recommendations and post such documents on their respective websites. Some Members of Congress have also proposed establishing repositories of open recommendations. Senator Heidi Heitkamp introduced the Inspector General Recommendation Transparency Act (S. 3109) in the 114th Congress, which proposed requiring federal IGs to post on their websites a list of recommendations “that [have] not been adopted or implemented” by the affiliated agency.

Possible Oversight Issues

As CIGIE continues to build out Oversight.gov, Congress might consider the following oversight issues:

- the pace of CIGIE’s progress in completing Oversight.gov, including the projected completion timeframe; anticipated capabilities of the final website; and incorporation of suggestions to alter the content of structure of the beta website;
- which of the remaining 37 OIGs will join the Oversight.com beta test, and whether legislation should require OIG participation on the finalized website;
- whether, and in what capacity, the website will include an open recommendations database, including how it might compare to the [Government Accountability Office \(GAO\) open recommendations database](#);
- the utility of the website to Congress and its impact on oversight of OIG activities;
- the utility of the website to OIGs, including the extent to which it could simplify or automate certain activities—such as the development of semiannual reports—and allow OIGs to redirect resources to other activities; and
- the quality and accuracy of data presented, as well as the capacity of, and coordination between, CIGIE and OIGs to maintain website content.

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