

the environmental IGenda

a bimonthly report on activities in EPA's Office of Inspector General

NOVEMBER 1979

DON'T TOSS THIS IN THE TRASHCAN!

At least not yet. This is the first issue of your brand-new newsletter. It's directed to all employees of EPA's Office of Inspector General. Like its predecessor, the late lamented Dateline Audit, the environmental IGenda will be published bimonthly; its chief objective will be to keep all our personnel up to date on the latest OIG policies and developments. We'll also provide information on new Government-wide regulations and policies, professional activities, and staff changes. And every once in a while we'll throw in an article just for fun.

Barbara Combs of Headquarters is the IGenda's principal reporter, circulation manager, and editor in chief. Please call her (FTS 557-5017) if you have any suggestions for improving the IGenda. Remember, it's your newsletter!

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL



What better cover story for our first issue than to introduce our new boss, Inspector General Inez Smith Reid? At last the wait is over: Just as we went to press, Mrs. Reid was sworn in as the Environmental Protection Agency's first Inspector General. The ceremony culminated EPA's arduous search for an IG, which began in October 1978 under the provisions of P.L. 95-452, the Inspector General Act of 1978. EPA designated Mrs. Reid as its IG last June; she was formally nominated for the position by President Carter on September 19 and confirmed by the Senate in early November.

Most of us have been griping and grumbling for months because we had no IG. But although our wait was long, it was more than worthwhile. We are both fortunate and honored to have such a distinguished and capable new boss. Inez Smith Reid is a professor, lawyer, administrator, scholar, and writer. She has taught political science, American Constitutional Law, political and civil liberties, African politics, and other subjects. She has been a Government attorney as well as a private practitioner. She has

been an administrator in the Federal Government and New York State government, headed a private nonprofit corporation, served as acting chairperson of a political science department, and ran an educational opportunity program. She has written a book, written numerous articles in the fields of constitutional law and African politics, and lectured widely in the midwestern and eastern parts of the United States.

A native of New Orleans, Mrs. Reid attended secondary school in Washington, D.C. She has a Bachelors degree from Tufts University, a law degree from Yale, a masters from UCLA, and a doctorate from Columbia University.

Mrs. Reid's most recent position before coming to EPA was that of Deputy General Counsel for Regulation Review, Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. In that job, she served as the major deputy to the General Counsel on all matters concerning HEW regulations. HEW promulgates more than 500 regulations per year. These regulations contain major and minor policies for the operation of HEW programs. Mrs. Reid's role involved reviewing all HEW regulations for legal sufficiency, appropriate policies, readability, and other concerns; managing the Department's initiative for re-writing existing regulations; developing regulations under the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; and revising the Federal Interagency Day Care Regulations.

Also joining us, as Special Assistant to the Inspector General, is Laphalia Gause. Miss Gause has worked with Mrs. Reid for 2 1/2 years at HEW; before that, she had administrative-management jobs with the American Lung Association and the Interracial Council for Business Opportunity. Miss Gause is a graduate of Tennessee A&I State University. She also studied at Baruch College of the City University of New York, and at the new School for Social Research.

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS

During recent construction grant audits, our sleuths uncovered conditions which led to important (and potentially far-reaching) findings:

- MAD auditors questioned \$1 million and suspended \$1.1 million when they found that the specifications approved by the State and EPA Region III (and upon which the grant was based) were not the specifications used for construction by the consulting engineer or the contractor. Also, part of the contract was replaced by a cost-plus change order. The estimate was \$125,000; actual cost claimed was \$1.3 million. Most of the costs questioned resulted from excessive rental charges for contractor-owned equipment. Other work not part of the approved scope was claimed under another change order. Finally, MAD found that the consulting engineer did not make full and accurate disclosure to EPA or the State.

- EAD computed a \$500,000 credit due EPA resulting from a substitution of sewer pipe. The contract performance specifications required use of sewer pipe with added steel, but the contractors substituted pipe without steel stirrups or steel reinforcement. They claimed their substitution met the performance criteria.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Roger Smith was EPA's representative at the AICPA's Chicago seminar, which focused on the CPA's role in Federally assisted programs.

On September 17 and 18, Les Buie was the Southeast Intergovernmental Audit Forum's representative at a training conference on Government Accountability in the 80's. The conference was cosponsored by SIAF and the Nashville Chapter of the Association of Government Accountants. Ken Konz also participated; he was the Federal panelist on "The Audit of Government Programs...A New Emphasis."

At the Eighth Annual Conference of the American Association of Spanish-Speaking Certified Public Accountants on October 26, Mal Stringer and Les Buie spoke on Federal contracting opportunities and responsibilities.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT

The Mid-Atlantic and Western Audit Divisions recently teamed up to do a survey of the EPA Financial Management Office in Las Vegas. While there, Lisa Karpf played a nickel slot on behalf of Ken Marietta, who wasn't along. Lisa hit the jackpot with Ken's nickel, and being a person of high integrity, plans to turn the money over to Ken as soon as he can find her. The fact that Lisa's win was observed by three other auditors in no way influenced her decision to remit.

PERSONNEL NEWS

This month we welcome into our large and happy family 24 former members of the Security and Inspection Division. Herewith a thumbnail sketch on 12 of them (we'll catch the rest in our next issue).

Frank Dukes, Branch Chief--interests in farming and Redskins football.

John Norton, Headquarters Inspector--enjoys foreign travel (personal, not official).

William Craig, Headquarters Inspector--an attorney turned investigator, with hunting and woodworking as hobbies.

Arnold Schneider, Headquarters Inspector--enjoys photography for relaxation.

Peter Alberse, Headquarters Inspector--combines a brilliant naval reserve career with an equally brilliant investigative background.

Norman Brand, Region X Inspector--keeps you laughing, even during an investigation.

Kenneth Heard, Region IX Inspector--always has a good word for you and is an 8 on the Richter scale.

✓ George Markham, Region II Inspector--After listening to George's jokes, you can appreciate Henny Youngman.

Richard Walsh, Region I Inspector--believes in W. F. Field's epitaph, "On the whole I would rather be in Philadelphia."

✓ John Zacharias, Region IV Inspector--the staff grammarian, whose polysyllabic usages will force Howard Cosell to a lexicon.

William Perry, Region V Inspector--his claim to fame is owning unusual automobiles; for some reason, they never work.

Rodman Redard, Region VI Inspector--a city slicker gone cowboy. There's lots of personnel news on the Audit side, too:

Headquarters--Cheryl Bentley, who had been detailed as Mal Stringer's secretary since early 1979, was officially promoted to that position. Gail Wilcox, clerk-typist for the Quality Control Staff, left us to try her luck in San Diego. And Washington women donned their black armbands on learning that Gene Fazio (who finally passed all four parts of his CPA exam) left the ranks of bachelorhood.

EAD--Roger Duhamel was promoted to fill the vacancy left when Art Pavlucik became the Region I audit manager last summer. Dan Regan transferred to work for Region I. Bob Alexander, a former GSA employee and 1958 graduate of Duquesne University, joined the Boston staff. And Theresa Jones got married; she's now Theresa Parker.

MAD--Anna Wilson resigned from, and Bernard Friel joined, the Arlington staff. This job marks Bernie's return to Government service after spending several years managing his family business.

SAD--Eugene Grabber, an EPA steal from DCAA, joined our Dallas staff. ✓ Ken Craiger of Atlanta is now a licensed CPA.

NAD--Nena Roberts resigned, and Ray McAdams became Chicago's new CPA Project Officer.

✓ WAD--all the news is from Sacramento: Mel Watarai resigned; Paul Jalbert left to become the new CPA Project Officer in San Francisco; ✓ Curtis Chitwood and Tom Healy, both from DCAA, came aboard.