



Ohio Department of Natural Resources

JOHN R. KASICH, GOVERNOR

JAMES ZEHRINGER, DIRECTOR

February 2, 2015

Randall J. Meyer
State of Ohio Inspector General
Rhodes State Office Tower
30 East Broad Street - Suite 2940
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3414

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

Re: File ID Number: 2012-CA00124
Subject Name: Benjamin Harpster
Agency: Ohio Department of Natural Resources
Allegations: Conflict of Interest
Date of Report: December 4, 2014

Dear Mr. Meyer:

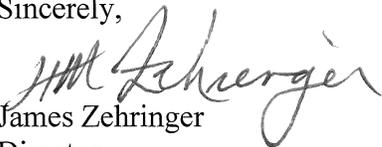
I am writing in response to your office's recommendations in the above matter. I am optimistic that this correspondence will satisfy the recommendations contained in the above report.

Since the release of your report, ODNR's Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management reviewed its investigative findings in light of your recommendations. I am pleased to report that ODNR has already implemented all of your recommendations. ODNR has clarified that Mr. Ben Harpster is ineligible to perform any inspection work relative to Bradner Oil, which is a company that is owned and operated by members of his family. Further, ODNR has implemented a policy whereby it abstains from "recommendations" of contractors to perform work on behalf of individual landowners. ODNR has also reviewed its internal process as to the involvement of inspectors in orphan well and landowner grant programs to ensure that inspectors are not subject to bidding information that might serve as a conflict of interest.

In addition to these measures, ODNR has revisited its training program relative to employees in the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management. Specifically, ODNR has developed revised training information in light of the circumstances described in your report. This information is being provided to all Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management employees during the calendar year 2015.

I appreciate the opportunity to update you as to the measures taken in response to your report recommendations. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,



James Zehringer
Director