



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATES ALLEGATION OF WRONGFUL ACTIONS AT THE
OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Columbus, Ohio, May 7, 2015

The inspector general has issued a report of investigation initiated after a complaint was received alleging employees at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency were failing to act on water regulatory matters involving the water pollution discharge permits for several coal facilities. The authors of the complaint, four members of the Ohio House of Representatives, also questioned the retirement of a surface water official and the resignation of the director of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. In all of these instances, the complainants alleged members of the Ohio Governor's Office might have improperly influenced each of the outcomes.

The investigation found administration of the water pollution discharge permits by officials at the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency were well within the boundaries of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidelines. The investigation further determined the evidence did not support the allegation that personnel changes were the result of an improper influence from outside of the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2014-CA00024 is now available at:
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/Investigations/2015Investigations.aspx>

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