



STATE OF OHIO
OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

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OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATES APPEARANCE OF IMPROPRIETY AT OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Columbus, Ohio, December 4, 2014

The Ohio Inspector General issued a report of investigation today finding an appearance of impropriety was created by the actions of employees at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management. The investigation was launched after a complaint was received alleging a state mineral resource inspector may have provided "insider information" to his father, the owner of an oil and gas well service company.

Investigators found the state mineral resources inspector had provided his father photographs of a prospective project open for bid. While the father's company did not end up bidding for work on the project, the same photographs were not provided to any other well-service company competitors.

In another instance, the investigation found administrators at the Ohio Department of Natural Resources assigned the mineral resources inspector to inspect projects completed by his father's company, and were aware of the family relationship. While the evidence reviewed by the inspector general did not show the company received favorable treatment or was held to a lesser standard, the son's involvement as an inspection official gave rise to questions of impartiality and objectivity.

The director of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources has been asked to consider several recommendations to avoid future, similar instances of appearances of impropriety. The inspector general has asked the director to respond within 60 days.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2012-CA00124 is now available at:

<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/Investigations/2014Investigations.aspx>

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