



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

AUG 27 2013

Mr. Bruce E. Schundler
47 Four Oaks Roads
Bedminster, NJ 07921

Dear Mr. Schundler:

This is in response to your letter of August 14, 2013.

Let me begin by clarifying something. In your most recent letter, you begin by misstating what I said in my letter to you dated February 27, 2013. You said: "In your [my] response, your underlying thesis was that the DOI and its many bureaus and offices (including the OIG) 'have no authority to punish or discipline DOI employees and it properly exercises its authority by referring whistleblower reprisal complaints to the OSC.'" Rather, what I said was: "As a threshold matter, the OIG has no authority to punish or discipline DOI employees...." I said nothing about the Department of the Interior (DOI) and its bureaus, nor would I ever presume to speak for them.

The issues and questions you pose in your August 14 letter are all best presented or posed to DOI, its bureaus, and/or the Office of Special Counsel. I explained, in detail, the role of the OIG relative to complaints such as yours. I will not reiterate that here, but refer you back to that letter.

Generally, however, resolving a matter between OSC and an agency such as DOI can be a very lengthy process. In the end, a complainant, such as you, will probably never know what, if any, discipline is or is not taken against an employee. The Department is prohibited by the Privacy Act from disclosing such information. Therefore, even with a resolution negotiated between OSC and DOI, you will not be provided this information.

Your complaint is in the proper legal forum. The OIG cannot serve as a substitute for this well-established administrative process.

Sincerely,

Mary L. Kendall
Deputy Inspector General