Message

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: 6/29/2021 8:33:58 PM
To: Hou, Ariel [Hou.Ariel@epa.gov]
Subject: RE: Congressional disclosure on fraud and corruption in OCSPP

Do you have a few mins to talk?

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

From: Hou, Ariel <Hou.Ariel@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 4:05 PM
To: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Subject: RE: Congressional disclosure on fraud and corruption in OCSPP

has just informed me of this incident. She is not being alleged of any specific wrongdoing based on a quick search but she is listed as the EPA employee at the bottom – and it's implied that she is the "inexperienced assessor" assigned to do QA/QC.

On the other hand, is named multiple times. I will need some time to read through this later this evening.

From: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 4:03 PM
To: Edelstein, Rebecca <Edelstein.Rebecca@epa.gov>; Hou, Ariel <Hou.Ariel@epa.gov>; Passe, Loraine <Passe.Loraine@epa.gov>; Fehrenbacher, Cathy <Fehrenbacher.Cathy@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Congressional disclosure on fraud and corruption in OCSPP

Please keep this close hold. I'm sharing since Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) Please let me know if any of your staff have reached out to you and if they are struggling with this.

From: Siciliano, CarolAnn <Siciliano.CarolAnn@epa.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 1:40 PM

Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)

Cc: Freedhoff, Michal <Freedhoff.Michal@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Hartman, Mark <Hartman.Mark@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: Congressional disclosure on fraud and corruption in OCSPP

Dear colleagues – Your names appear in a letter sent by the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) to Representative Ro Khanna, Chair of the House Oversight Environment Committee. See attachment. The letter alleges instances of loss of scientific integrity within OPPT. Among other things, PEER asks Representative Khanna to refer these allegations to EPA's Office of the Inspector General.

OCSPP's Deputy Scientific Integrity Official, I am working with Michal and EPA's Scientific Integrity Official to identify next steps. In the meantime, I wanted you to be aware of this letter.

I also want to remind you of the protections afforded to whistleblowers. As you know, retaliation against whistleblowers is a prohibited personnel practice. 5 U.S.C. § 2302. To qualify as a whistleblower of protected disclosures, the employee must reasonably believe that the wrongdoing being disclosed has occurred; they do not need to prove the actual violation. I believe these allegations qualify as protected disclosures, thus entitling the four complainants to whistleblower protections.

We recognize the complicated and sensitive nature of this matter, especially because the complaint identifies OPPT scientists by name.

Carol Ann Siciliano
Director and Associate Assistant Administrator
Office of Program Support
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office & Mobile: (202) 564-5489
Siciliano.carolann@epa.gov

From: Freedhoff, Michal <Freedhoff.Michal@epa.gov>
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 5:57 PM
To: Siciliano, CarolAnn <Siciliano.CarolAnn@epa.gov>; Keigwin, Richard <Keigwin.Richard@epa.gov>; Hartman, Mark <Hartman.Mark@epa.gov>; Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Cc: Hanley, Mary <Hanley.Mary@epa.gov>; Richmond, Jonah <Richmond.Jonah@epa.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Congressional disclosure on fraud and corruption in OCSPP

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

> **From:** Timothy Whitehouse <twhitehouse@peer.org>
> **Date:** June 28, 2021 at 5:54:36 PM EDT
> **To:** "Freedhoff, Michal" <Freedhoff.Michal@epa.gov>
> **Cc:** Kyla Bennett <KBennett@peer.org>
> **Subject: Congressional disclosure on fraud and corruption in OCSPP**
>
> Assistant Administrator Freedhoff:
>
> Today, PEER filed a Congressional disclosure to Rep Khanna's office presenting evidence from four EPA scientists that we represent. The disclosure outlines disturbing evidence of fraud and corruption in OCSPP, involving deliberate tampering with chemical risk assessments conducted under TSCA, including PFAS, and the deletion of potential health effects without the knowledge or consent of the human health assessors.
>
> We have also sent the information to the EPA IG. Attached you will find that disclosure.
>
> Thank you for your attention to this matter and your willingness to address this issue.

Sincerely,

Tim Whitehouse, JD, MA
Executive Director
Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility
202-265-7337 ext 109
Twitter: @TimWhitehouseUS