UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

July 2, 2021

OFFICE OF CHEMICAL SAFETY
AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Transmission of Document entitled "Congressional Disclosure on Fraud and Corruption in OCSPP"

FROM: Michal Freedhoff, PhD
Assistant Administrator

TO: Sean O'Donnell
Inspector General

Francesca T. Grifo, PhD
Scientific Integrity Official

On June 28, 2021, I received the accompanying "Congressional Disclosure on Fraud and Corruption in OCSPP" that Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility ("PEER") submitted to Representative Ro Khanna, Chair, Oversight Environment Subcommittee, House Committee on Oversight and Reform. Per the attached, PEER has requested that the Chair provide the Office of Inspector General a copy of the attached document. I am writing to transmit that document to you. I also transmit a copy to EPA's Scientific Integrity Official.

The document alleges numerous violations of scientific integrity by career staff and managers in the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP). These allegations concern me deeply as scientific integrity is essential to our work.

I am committed to ensuring that these matters are reviewed and evaluated fully. OCSPP is committed to supporting any investigation or other activity that your offices may initiate associated with PEER's document.

I am also committed to ensuring the highest level of scientific integrity across OCSPP. In addition to my email of March 10, 2021, in which I set forth my expectations for all OCSPP managers and staff, OCSPP's Deputy Scientific Integrity Official has led office-wide and small-group trainings on scientific integrity issues, emphasized the need to have sound scientific bases for all our science decisions, and explained the importance of transparently communicating to staff and managers the reasons for any changes to scientists' work. She has also emphasized the process for presenting and considering Differing Scientific Opinions and has facilitated resolution of one such disagreement. We will continue this vital work. Please consider OCSPP leadership to be your partners in our shared commitment.

If you would like to discuss this matter further, please let me know.

Attachment

Cc: Janet McCabe
Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta
Rick Keigwin
Carol Ann Siciliano