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

JAN 25 2017

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

Ms. Kathryn Watson
Daily Caller News Foundation
1050 17th Street, Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036

Re: Freedom of Information Act Request (EPA-HQ-2017-000665) – Final Disposition Letter

Dear Ms. Watson:

This letter responds to your Freedom of Information Act request to the Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General dated October 21, 2016, seeking disclosure of "a listing of all closed investigations in fiscal years 2015 and 2016 to date."

Documents responsive to your request are enclosed. Our search included records through December 31, 2016. Some redactions of information have been made to the documents pursuant to the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. § 552, Sections (b)(6), (b)(7)(C) and (b)(7)(E). All redactions within the responsive documents are made pursuant to both Exemption (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C), unless otherwise noted.

Exemption (b)(6) exempts from disclosure any information the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Exemption (b)(7)(C) provides protection for personal information in law enforcement records the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. The names of individuals and other identifying information have been withheld pursuant to Exemptions (b)(6) and (b)(7)(C).

Exemption (b)(7)(E) allows agencies to protect from disclosure all law enforcement information that would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions or which would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigation or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

You may appeal this decision to the Counsel to the Inspector General, Office of Counsel, Office of Inspector General, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Mail Code (2411T), Washington, D.C. 20460 or via email at oig_foia@epa.gov. The appeal must be made in writing and must be submitted no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. The appeal letter and envelope should include the FOIA tracking number listed above and be marked "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Additionally, you make seek dispute resolution services from either the EPA FOIA Public Liaison (hq.foia@epa.gov; 202-566-1667) or the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS). OGIS serves as a bridge between FOIA requesters and agencies and can be reached by email at ogis@nara.gov, by phone at 1-877-684-6448, or by fax at (202) 741-5769.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, you may contact Scott Levine, EPA OIG FOIA Officer, at (202) 566-1512 or oig_foia@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan Barvenik
Associate Counsel

Enclosures