



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

September 12, 2023

Diana R. Shaw
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of State
Office of Inspector General
1700 North Moore Street, Suite 900
Arlington, Virginia 22209

Dear Ms. Shaw:

This required external peer review of the U.S. Department of State Office of Inspector General was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency *Guide for Conducting Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General*, dated December 2021. The peer review was conducted from April 3, 2023, through September 12, 2023.

We assessed the extent to which three Department of State OIG offices complied with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, known as the Blue Book, dated January 2012 and December 2020. Specifically, we assessed the Office of Inspections, or ISP; Office of Evaluations and Special Projects, or ESP; and Office of Audits, or AUD. This assessment included a review of the ISP, ESP, and AUD policies and procedures for implementing Blue Book standards. It also included a review of four inspection and evaluation reports issued from April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023, to determine whether they complied with Blue Book standards and the Department of State OIG's internal policies and procedures outlined in the *ISP Handbook*, dated September 2021; *ESP Handbook*, dated July 2022; and *AUD Policy for Evaluations and Reviews*, dated November 2022. Details regarding our scope and methodology are in Enclosure 1.

Overall Conclusion

We determined that the Department of State OIG's policies and procedures were generally consistent with Blue Book standards assessed in the external peer review. All the reports reviewed—two inspection reports issued by ISP, one evaluation report issued by ESP, and one evaluation report issued by AUD—generally complied with Blue Book standards.

The Department of State OIG agreed with our overall conclusion, as detailed in its response to our peer review report. The response is in Enclosure 2.

Sincerely,

Sean W. O'Donnell
Inspector General

Enclosures (2)

ENCLOSURE 1: Scope and Methodology

For this external peer review, there were 27 nonclassified inspection and evaluation reports issued from April 1, 2022, through March 31, 2023. There were 21 reports from ISP, five reports from AUD, and one report from ESP. The review team randomly selected two reports from ISP and one report from AUD and selected the one report from ESP. The team reviewed the following:

- *Inspection of Embassy Athens and Constituent Post, Greece*, ISP-1-22-14, issued May 2022.
- *Inspection of Embassy Ottawa and Constituent Posts, Canada*, ISP-1-23-04, issued October 2022.
- *Compliance Follow-Up Review of the Afghan Special Immigrant Visa Program*, AUD-MERO-23-01, issued October 2022.
- *Evaluation of the Department of State's Compliance with the Authorities Act*, ESP-22-04, issued September 2022.

The review team also conducted an on-site visit May 8–12, 2023. This visit included interviews and walk-throughs of the different software applications that house workpapers, documentation, and reports.

ENCLOSURE 2: Reviewed Organization Response to Draft Peer Review Report



Office of Inspector General
United States Department of State

August 16, 2023

The Honorable Sean W. O'Donnell Inspector
General
Environmental Protection Agency Office of
Inspector General
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W. (2410T)
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Inspector General O'Donnell:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the draft report of the Inspection and Evaluation peer review of the Department of State OIG's Offices of Inspections (ISP), Evaluations and Special Projects (ESP), and Audits (AUD). We appreciate the peer review team's independent assessment that ISP, ESP, and AUD's policies and procedures were generally consistent with the standards contained in the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (Blue Book). We are also pleased that the peer review team concluded that the four reviewed reports—two inspections reports issued by ISP, one evaluation report issued by ESP, and one evaluation report issued by AUD—generally complied with the Blue Book standards in effect at the time. We concur with the team's overall conclusion and have no specific comments on the peer review team's draft report.

Please convey our appreciation to the members of the peer review team for their time, dedication, and professionalism in conducting this review. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or you or your team may contact ISP's Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Operations, Lisa Rodely, at Lisa.R.Rodely@stateoig.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Diana R. Shaw".

Diana R. Shaw

Acting Inspector General