



External Peer Review Report

March 7, 2024

Deborah J. Jeffrey
Inspector General
Office of Inspector General
U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission
100 F. Street, NE
Washington, DC 20549-2977

Dear Inspector General Jeffrey:

This required external peer review was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Inspection and Evaluation Committee guidance as contained in the *CIGIE Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General (December 2021)*. The peer review was conducted from October 11, 2023, through March 7, 2024.

We assessed the extent to which the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) complied with the *CIGIE Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation, December 2020 (Blue Book)*. This assessment included a review of SEC OIG's internal policies and procedures (*SEC OIG Office of Audits Policy Manual, issued February 16, 2022*) implementing the Blue Book standards. It also included a review of selected inspection and evaluation reports issued between October 1, 2020, and September 30, 2023, to determine whether the reports complied with the Blue Book standards and SEC OIG's internal policies and procedures. Details regarding our scope and methodology are in Enclosure 1.

Overall Conclusion

We determined that SEC OIG's policies and procedures generally were consistent with the Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. Of the two reports reviewed, both generally complied with the Blue Book standards. The SEC OIG management officials provided a response to our Peer Review Report (Enclosure 2) in which they agreed with our overall conclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roderick Anderson".

Roderick Anderson
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Commerce
Office of Inspector General

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE I: Scope and Methodology

When selecting projects for the peer review, we reviewed SEC OIG's Strategic Plan, annual work plans, and Semiannual Reports to Congress, to determine what categories or types of work had been completed, areas of focus, and any potential risk areas. From October 1, 2020, through September 30, 2023, SEC OIG issued 12 evaluation reports with three of the reports contracted work. The CIGIE *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General* states, "The Reviewing OIG should select a representative sample of reports issued by the Reviewed Organization covering the 1-year period prior to the start of the peer review." SEC OIG issued three evaluation reports 1 year prior to the start of the peer review with all three reports issued by the same group. Therefore, we selected two of the three reports issued between October 1, 2022, through September 30, 2023, to review. Specifically, we reviewed the following reports:

- *Evaluation of the SEC's Fiscal Year 2022 Compliance With the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019*, Report Number 578, issued May 5, 2023.
- *The SEC Took Appropriate Workplace Safety Actions in Accordance With Pandemic Guidance But Could Improve Communications*, Report Number 579, issued July 25, 2023.

We did not conduct onsite visits; however, SEC OIG provided us online access to the audit software that housed workpapers, documentation, and reports for each project. Additionally, we obtained and reviewed SEC OIG's policies and procedures, a prior external peer review report and letter of comment, and quality assurance reports. We also interviewed relevant personnel who addressed our questions and provided additional documentation to support our review.

There were no constraints on our ability to exercise professional judgment. Furthermore, there were no limitations or impairment to our independence.

ENCLOSURE 2: Reviewed Organization Comments to Draft Peer Review Report

SEC OIG's response to our draft peer review report follows on p. 4.



OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

February 14, 2024

Roderick Anderson
Acting Inspector General
U.S. Department of Commerce
Office of Inspector General

Dear Acting Inspector General Anderson:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft External Peer Review Report, dated February 13, 2024, on the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's Office of Inspector General's inspection and evaluation organization for the period ended September 30, 2023. We are pleased that your independent review of our inspection and evaluation organization determined that our policies and procedures generally were consistent with the Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review, and the two reports reviewed both generally complied with the Blue Book standards.

We appreciate your efforts in conducting this review. If you have questions, please contact me or Rebecca L. Sharek, Deputy Inspector General for Audits, Evaluations, and Special Projects, at (202) 551-6083 or sharekr@sec.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Deborah J. Jeffrey".

Deborah J. Jeffrey
Inspector General