



Denali Commission
Office of Inspector General
Anchorage, AK 99501

March 25, 2015

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Thomas R. Carper
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. Senate

Dear Chairmen Johnson and Grassley and Ranking Members Carper and Leahy,

In response to your request of February 27, 2015, we are providing current information on our office's open and unimplemented recommendations. As you may be aware, the Department of Commerce Office of Inspector General (OIG) entered into an agreement with the Denali Commission on May 28, 2014, to provide a full range of inspector general (IG) services. Pursuant to that agreement, I have been named acting Inspector General for the Denali Commission. Our answers to your request are numbered below in accordance with the numbering on your request.

1. After reviewing the limited records of the former IG last year, we identified 17 open recommendations. We worked with the Commission leadership to resolve all but one of the unimplemented recommendations (see enclosure 1). The Commission leadership is working with their newly hired counsel to determine their position on the recommendation. There are no cost savings associated with the open recommendation.
2. There are no audits, evaluations, or investigations provided to the Commission for comment but not responded to within 60 days.
3. There are no investigations involving GS-15 level or above staff.
4. There are no reported instances of whistleblower retaliation.
5. There are no instances of Commissioners or Commission staff attempts to interfere with IG independence.
6. Based on our review of the records we were able to retrieve from the former IG, we found no evidence of instances of Commissioners or Commission staff resisting or objecting in a significant manner to Denali OIG oversight. OIGs operate in environments where a certain tension inherently exists between them and the agencies they oversee; there were definitely tensions between the Commission and the former IG. However, since assuming the IG role for the Denali Commission, my office has not had any instances where the agency refused to provide, or otherwise delayed or restricted my office's access to, records or other information.
7. Lastly, there are no closed investigations, evaluations, or audits that were not disclosed to the public since we assumed the role of IG for the Denali Commission on May 28, 2014. We found no evidence of undisclosed reports in our review of the former IG's records.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (206) 220-7970.

Sincerely,



David Sheppard
Acting Inspector General, Denali Commission

Enclosure

cc: Todd Zinser, Inspector General, U.S. Department of Commerce
Joel Niemeyer, Federal Co-Chair, Denali Commission

**Enclosure 1. Denali Commission OIG's Open and Unimplemented
Recommendations as of March 6, 2015**

Report	Report Date	Unimplemented Recommendation <small>(According to Prior Inspector General)</small>
Inspection of Port Graham Police and Fire Station	September 2009	Denali should include a grant condition for publicly recording a Notice of Federal Interest in the land records for a funded facility. This notice should define the parameters of permissible-use over time—and the solution for an unneeded, misused, or abandoned building.
