

TO WHOM MUST A DISCLOSURE BE MADE TO BE PROTECTED?

To be protected under 41 U.S.C. Section 4712, a disclosure must be made to one of the following:

- A member of Congress or a representative of a committee of Congress.
- An Office of Inspector General.
- The Government Accountability Office.
- A federal employee responsible for contract or grant oversight or management at the relevant agency.
- An authorized official of the U.S. Department of Justice or other law enforcement agency.
- A court or grand jury.
- Management official or other employee of the contractor, subcontractor, or grantee, or subgrantee who has the responsibility to investigate, discover, or address misconduct

Disclosures involving classified information should be made in accordance with applicable laws, and individuals should consult with the OIG to ensure that such disclosures are made appropriately.

HOW CAN I REPORT WRONGDOING TO THE EPA OIG?

Waste, fraud, abuse, misconduct, or whistleblower reprisal relating to an EPA employee, program, contract, or grant, may be reported to the OIG through our website:



Or: Phone: (888) 546-8740

Email: OIG.Hotline@epa.gov

Mailing Address:

Office of Inspector General Hotline
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (2410T)
Washington, D.C. 20460



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

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WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION INFORMATION

For employees of EPA and CSB contractors, subcontractors, grantees, subgrantees, and personal service contractors.

WHAT IS A WHISTLEBLOWER?

A whistleblower is an employee of a federal contractor, subcontractor, grantee, or subgrantee or personal services contractor who discloses information that the individual reasonably believes is evidence of:

- Gross mismanagement of a federal contract or grant.
- Gross waste of federal funds.
- Abuse of authority related to a federal contract or grant.
- Substantial and specific danger to public health or safety.
- Violation of law, rule, or regulation related to a federal contract or grant, including the competition for or negotiation of a contract or grant.

Whistleblowers perform an important service to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, and the public when they come forward with what they reasonably believe to be evidence of wrongdoing. They should not be subject to reprisal for doing so.

Federal law protects federal employees against reprisal for whistleblowing and ensures their confidentiality.

In addition, under 41 U.S.C. § 4712, it is illegal for an employee of a federal contractor, subcontractor, grantee, subgrantee, or personal services contractor to be discharged, demoted, or otherwise discriminated against for making a protected whistleblower disclosure.

Also, under Presidential Policy Directive 19, *Protecting Whistleblowers with Access to Classified Information*, an action affecting access to classified information cannot be taken in reprisal for protected whistleblowing.

The EPA Office of Inspector General has authority to investigate such allegations of reprisal. The OIG's [website](#) contains information on how to report suspected reprisal.



WHAT CAN I DO IF I BELIEVE REPRISAL HAS OCCURRED?

Employees of contractors, subcontractors, grantees, or subgrantees or personal services contractors may file a complaint with the OIG, which has the authority to investigate such allegations. Upon completion of its investigation, the OIG will submit a report of its findings to the person, the contractor, or grantee concerned, as well as the head of the agency.

Consistent with federal law, nothing in a nondisclosure agreement should be interpreted as limiting your ability to provide information to the OIG.

For additional information about whistleblower rights and protections, please see the [whistleblower protection page](#) on the OIG's website.

To make a whistleblower disclosure or report reprisal outside the EPA, please visit the U.S. Office of Special Counsel [website](#).