



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Federal Housing Finance Agency

400 7th Street SW, Washington, DC 20219

February 14, 2025

The Honorable Fara Damelin
Inspector General
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: External Peer Review Report

Dear Inspector General Damelin:

We reviewed the system of quality control over inspections and evaluations for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Office of Inspector General (OIG) in effect for the year ended September 30, 2024. A system of quality control includes multiple aspects of an organization, including, but not limited to, policies and procedures designed to provide reasonable assurance of complying with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency's (CIGIE's) *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation* (December 2020) (Blue Book).

In our opinion, the system of quality control for the FCC OIG in effect for the year September 30, 2024, has been suitably designed and complied with to provide a reasonable assurance of performing and reporting in conformity with the Blue Book.

Inspection and Evaluation (I&E) organizations can receive a rating of pass, pass with deficiencies, or fail. The FCC OIG has received an External Peer Review rating of pass.

Basis of Opinion

This required External Peer Review was conducted in accordance with CIGIE's *Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General* (July 2023) and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Offices of the Inspectors General of FHFA and the FCC, entered into on October 7, 2024.

During our review, we met with FCC OIG personnel and obtained an understanding of the nature of the FCC OIG's I&E function and the design of its system of quality control sufficient to assess the risks implicit in its I&E function. Based on our assessments, we selected I&E reports and administrative files to test for conformity with Blue Book standards and compliance with the FCC OIG's system of quality control.

In performing our review, we tested compliance with the FCC OIG's quality control policies and procedures to the extent we considered appropriate. These tests covered the application of the FCC OIG's policies and procedures on selected I&E reports. Our review was based on selected tests; therefore, it would not necessarily detect all weaknesses in the system of quality control or all instances of noncompliance.

Prior to concluding the Peer Review, we reassessed the scope of the Peer Review procedures and met with FCC OIG management to discuss the results of our review. We believe that the procedures we performed provide a reasonable basis for our opinion. Enclosure 1 to this report identifies the FCC OIG I&E reports we reviewed.

The FCC OIG's management officials provided a response to our Peer Review Report (Enclosure 2) in which they agreed with our overall rating.

Responsibilities and Limitations

The FCC OIG is responsible for establishing and maintaining a system of quality control designed to provide it with reasonable assurance that the organization and its personnel comply in all material respects with Blue Book standards. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the design of the system of quality control and the FCC OIG's compliance based on our review.

There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any system of quality control; therefore, noncompliance with the system of quality control may occur and may not be detected. Projection of any evaluation to future periods is subject to the risk that the system of quality control may become inadequate due to changes in conditions or because the degree of compliance with policies or procedures may deteriorate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. M. Tomney", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian M. Tomney
Inspector General

Enclosures

ENCLOSURE 1: Scope and Methodology

We reviewed compliance with the FCC OIG’s Office of Audits system of quality control, pertaining to inspections, in effect for the year ended September 30, 2024, to the extent we considered appropriate.

We assessed whether the FCC OIG’s Audit Manual met Blue Book standards.

We assessed three out of four reports since the FCC OIG is categorized as a medium sized organization. We selected one report from each review year covering both evaluations and inspections. There were no inspections or evaluations published in 2022.

The FCC OIG contracted with Kearney and Company, P.C. to conduct two evaluation reports in accordance with the CIGIE standards for inspection and evaluation. We assessed the evaluation reports conducted by Kearney and Company, P.C. against the FCC OIG’s internal guidance for ensuring the contractor’s work complies with Blue Book standards.

Report Number	Title	Performed By	Report Date
21-EVAL-06-01	FY 2021 Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 (FISMA) Evaluation for the FCC	Contractor Kearney & Co.	December 9, 2021
22-EVAL-06-01	FY 2022 FISMA Evaluation for the FCC	Contractor Kearney & Co.	February 28, 2023
21-INSP-10-01	Privacy & Data Protection Inspection	Internal	March 29, 2024

FHFA OIG performed this review remotely and did not conduct an onsite visit.

ENCLOSURE 2: Reviewed Organization's Comments to Draft Peer Review Report

This page is intentionally blank. See the following page for the FCC OIG's comments to the draft Peer Review Report.

**FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL**

February 13, 2025

Brian M. Tomney
Inspector General
Federal Housing Finance Agency
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20219

Re: FCC OIG Inspection and Evaluation Peer Review

Dear Inspector General Tomney:

On behalf of the Federal Communications Commission Office of Inspector General (FCC OIG), I am writing to thank you and your team for conducting FCC OIG's Inspection and Evaluation Peer Review (I&E Peer Review).

We have reviewed the draft I&E Peer Review Report and have no comments. We are pleased that your peer review team determined that FCC OIG's policies and procedures were consistent with the *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, and that the three reports reviewed complied with those standards.

We understand that this work takes considerable time and effort. Please extend our sincere appreciation to your team for their courtesy, professionalism, and important support of our office.

Feel free to reach out to me at Fara.Damelin@fcc.gov or (202) 418-1522 if you have any questions.

Respectfully,



Fara Damelin
Inspector General