

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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September 27, 2013

Hon. Gina McCarthy  
Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
William Jefferson Clinton Federal Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Ms. McCarthy,

I was briefed by my staff and have read the public press accounts of the case of Michael Beale, a former career employee of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This is an outrageous case of misconduct by a Federal employee and you are to be congratulated for being the first person to finally call Mr. Beale's claims of a secret intelligence career into question, putting into motion the actions that lead to his guilty plea in Federal Court today.

While Mr. Beale was able to enjoy enormous benefits as a result of his misconduct and lies, the fact remains that the administrative systems at EPA played a role in his success. According to the EPA Inspector General, Mr. Beale made at least one significant false claim on his original job application—having said he worked for Senator John Tunney when there is no record of his being employed in that office. Mr. Beale received retention incentive packages with insufficient records being retained by the agency to justify those bonuses. Perhaps the most shocking failure was that the agency continued to pay the bonus to Mr. Beale beyond the terms of the incentive package, making what was to have been a temporary bonus a permanent feature of his employment. Mr. Beale was also able to take significant time off without properly being charged for that time simply by lying about his being an employee of the Central Intelligence Agency. He falsely claimed to have served in Vietnam, contracting malaria while there, to justify getting a handicapped parking spot at EPA. Mr. Beale spent over \$300,000 on travel for the agency between 2000 and 2013 and always flew first class, using an apparent false claim about a bad back as his justification. On the road, he ran up very steep charges, well in excess of those typically allowed a Federal employee.

As you know, this is not a complete accounting of the benefits he garnered from the agency through deceit, but it does highlight that in many areas EPA should have had systems in place to question his conduct and hold him accountable. His hiring, pay, bonuses, time away from work, and his travel should have all triggered various levels of review by those above him as well as questions from appropriate employees in the administrative offices of the agency.

The Inspector General has committed to undertaking an audit that probes these systems. However, I want to ask you to begin your own effort to insure that such systems are robust enough to protect the integrity of your funds and your management responsibilities. It may take the Inspector General many months to finish his audit. It should not take you long to issue clear guidance about your expectations regarding how managers and administrative staff should handle hiring, bonus, travel and time issues within the EPA.

Please communicate back to me those steps you have taken to strengthen EPA administrative management at your earliest convenience. I know you share my outrage about the damage done by one scam artist. I am sure you also share my desire to see effective administrative management at your agency. Again, I appreciate all you did to uncover this illegal conduct, but the real clean-up work still lies before you. I stand ready to do all I can to support you in that effort.

Sincerely,



EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space, & Technology