

OSHA Response to Draft Report


U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for  
Occupational Safety and Health  
Washington, D.C. 20210



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MEMORANDUM FOR: ELLIOT P. LEWIS  
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

FROM:   
DAVID MICHAELS, PhD, MPH

SUBJECT: Response to OIG's Draft Audit Report  
#22-12-014-10-105  
Whistleblower Protection Program Cost

This memorandum is in response to your November 15, 2011, transmittal of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Audit Report No. 22-12-014-105, Whistleblower Protection Program Cost. We appreciate the efforts of the OIG to evaluate and develop a baseline cost estimate for the operation of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Whistleblower Protection Program (WPP). We concur with the report findings and the extrapolation of the cost data to define the resource requirements necessary to operate the WPP more effectively.

As you accurately note in the report, since the passage of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act), Congress has passed and added to OSHA's enforcement authority 20 additional whistleblower statutes. However, OSHA has continued to operate the WPP as effectively as possible without any significant increase in Agency resources and taken important steps to enhance the operational effectiveness of this program.

Again, we appreciate the time and effort the OIG staff spent to develop the WPP cost data. This information will be beneficial as we move forward with initiatives to restructure and improve operational efficiencies of this critically important program for the protection of worker rights.