



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

OCT 19 2009

Mary Kendall
Acting Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Inspector General Kendall:

I write to request that you commence an investigation regarding the six oil shale lease addenda that were entered into by the Department of the Interior on January 15, 2009. These addenda sought to amend existing Research, Demonstration and Development leases, some of which are currently the subject of a pending investigation by your office and the U.S. Department of Justice.

These lease addenda conveyed lucrative benefits to the leaseholders to the exclusion of others. Further, the addenda were executed at the very end of the last administration and were issued -- in contrast to the underlying leases -- without any opportunity for public review or comment.

In light of these circumstances, I have serious concerns about the lease addenda and therefore request that you conduct a full review of the facts and circumstances surrounding the addenda, including whether adequate consideration was given for the benefits conferred. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Ken Salazar
Secretary