



STATE OF OHIO

**OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL**

RANDALL J. MEYER, INSPECTOR GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OHIO INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATION FINDS OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY EMPLOYEES COMPENSATED FOR HOURS NOT WORKED**  
Columbus, Ohio, October 23, 2018

The Office of the Ohio Inspector General issued a report of investigation today after investigating a complaint received from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) alleging that an environmental specialist was improperly compensated overtime for hours not worked.

In October 2017, several OEPA employees were dispatched to a construction and demolition processing site to clean a large pile of debris that had caught fire in northern Ohio. The investigation showed that two environmental specialists worked through the night to resolve the situation and returned directly to the OEPA office from the site the next morning to finish their normally scheduled workdays. Upon returning to the OEPA office, they were released early from their shifts by a supervisor. The two OEPA employees were compensated for 5 hours and 6.7 hours of overtime for hours not worked.

The Office of the Inspector General found reasonable cause to believe a wrongful act occurred by agency supervisors and management for approving time for hours not worked, and by the two employees for receiving overtime compensation for hours not worked, contrary to OEPA policy.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2018-CA00002 is now available at:  
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2018investigations.aspx>

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