



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 EMPLOYEE IMPROPERLY USED STATE TIME AND RESOURCES
Columbus, Ohio, September 3, 2019

The Ohio Inspector General issued a report of investigation today after receiving a referral from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA) alleging Division of Surface Water Environmental Specialist 2 Mohammad Asasi was performing work related to his outside employment while on state time using state equipment.

Investigators reviewed Asasi's state and personal phone records, time sheets, work itineraries, and sign-in/sign-out records and determined that Asasi made or received over 2,000 phone calls that were either related to his secondary employment or were personal in nature while being paid by the State of Ohio.

The Office of the Inspector General found reasonable cause to believe that a wrongful act occurred based on violations of Ohio EPA policies related to Asasi's use of his state-issued desk phone; for engaging in personal business for profit using his state phone; and for excessive personal phone calls. In addition, five recommendations were made to the Ohio EPA.

The report of investigation has been sent to the City of Columbus Prosecuting Attorney and the Ohio Ethics Commission for consideration.

Ohio Inspector General Report of Investigation file number 2019-CA00005 is now available at:
<http://watchdog.ohio.gov/investigations/2019investigations.aspx>

Contact:
Office of the Ohio Inspector General
(614) 644-9110

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