



SEP 20 2007

The Honorable John D. Dingell
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Dingell:

I am writing in response to your letter dated September 5, 2007, in which you requested that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) review the propriety and legality of large bonus payments and paid leave awarded to certain employees of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Specifically, you asked OIG to determine whether Office of Personnel Management rules have been violated in the payment of these bonuses and to provide information on the Government's options regarding partial or full recovery in addition to information regarding any other applicable penalties. Additionally, you asked OIG to look into actions by certain FDA managers to accumulate paid leave under the guise of compensatory time for religious observances.

This office is currently reviewing the allegations identified in your letter, which are ongoing and confidential. We will stay in touch with your staff as we determine appropriate actions.

We appreciate your interest in the programs of the Department. An identical letter has been sent to the Honorable Bart Stupak. If you have any questions about this response, please contact me or your staff may call Claire Barnard, Director of External Affairs, at (202) 205-9523.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Daniel R. Levinson".

Daniel R. Levinson
Inspector General