



Offices of the
Inspector General

LUCY LANG
Inspector General

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March 9, 2022

Basil Seggos, Esq.
Commissioner
New York State Department of
Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway
Albany, New York 12233-1010

Re: NYS IG 0679-001-2021

Dear Commissioner Seggos:

On March 8, 2021, [REDACTED], then an assistant regional attorney with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), alleged to the Offices of the New York State Inspector General that she was forced out of her position as a PEF Grade 28 Associate Attorney by her former supervisor, Regional Attorney [REDACTED]. In a letter dated March 12, 2021, the Inspector General referred the complaint to DEC for investigation and appropriate action. [REDACTED] was subsequently notified of this referral.

On April 23, 2021, DEC advised that it had concluded its investigation and found that the allegations of employee misconduct by [REDACTED] former supervisor, [REDACTED] were not substantiated. On July 5, 2021, [REDACTED] alleged to the Inspector General that DEC had conducted a “poor” investigation and had not spoken with her about the matter.

The Inspector General reviewed DEC’s investigation along with hundreds of pages of supporting documentation, spoke with [REDACTED] on two occasions regarding her complaints, and determined that DEC conducted a comprehensive investigation. Regarding [REDACTED] complaint that DEC had not spoken to her about the matter, DEC advised the Inspector General that its investigators had in fact spoken with [REDACTED] on several occasions during the investigative period for follow-up clarification to her robust and detailed written complaint. The Inspector General found no evidence to controvert DEC’s findings. Of note, [REDACTED] resigned from DEC on October 30, 2021, and no longer works for New York State.

According to [REDACTED] in a separate matter, she submitted a complaint to the Governor's Office of Employee Relations (GOER) alleging gender discrimination against [REDACTED] which was ultimately unfounded. A review of the GOER investigation was not within the scope of the Inspector General's review.

[REDACTED] told the Inspector General that she had sought reinstatement of her former position as a PEF Grade 28 Associate Attorney and removal of an unfavorable performance evaluation from her personnel file. The Inspector General lacks the legal authority to effectuate the remedies that were sought by [REDACTED] and has no statutory authority to direct DEC to do the same. As such, my office considers this matter closed.

If you require further information, please contact Chief Deputy Inspector General Robyn Adair at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Lucy Lang
Inspector General

cc: Thomas Berkman, Esq.
General Counsel