

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard
Sent: Mon 8/28/2017 7:26:37 PM
Subject: EPA inspector general to probe Pruitt's travel to Oklahoma

By Alex Guillén

08/28/2017 03:22 PM EDT

EPA's inspector general will probe Administrator Scott Pruitt's travel in response to complaints from Democratic lawmakers that Pruitt may have violated agency policies during to his visits to his home state of Oklahoma.

House Democrats asked the IG to investigate in July following an Environmental Integrity Project [report](#) showing Pruitt spent 43 out of 92 days between March and May in Oklahoma or traveling to or from the state, where he previously was attorney general.

A [memo](#) today from the IG's office says the focus will be on "policies, procedures and oversight controls pertaining to the Administrator's travel to Oklahoma."

Investigators will look at the "frequency, cost and extent" of Pruitt's travel to Oklahoma through July 31, whether travel policies were followed for Pruitt and any staff and bodyguards traveling with him, and whether EPA's policies "are sufficiently designed to prevent fraud, waste and abuse with the Administrator's travel that included trips to Oklahoma."

EPA has rejected allegations that Pruitt traveled home improperly on taxpayer money. Pruitt's travel "all serves the purpose of hearing from hard-working Americans about how EPA can better serve the American people," spokeswoman Liz Bowman [said](#) last month.

The inquiry was requested by congressional Democrats. A [letter](#) today to those lawmakers said the IG's office will also refer their complaint to EPA ethics officials "to determine whether there are any aspects of this matter that they wish to pursue." EIP also requested an IG inquiry.

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