
From: Clay, Carole L (b)(6)
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2021 7:58 AM
To: Dove, Matthew D CIV (USA)
Subject: FW: [Non-DoD Source] RE: State Identified Possible Risk Based on Public Reports

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Matt, I was able to get the Comptroller to clear on a letter to IG Sopko last night (the Secretary isn't in yet to stamp his signature since he is overseas). However, I received the message below last night and I'm a little confused by the statement that pulling the reports would be time consuming. It appears as if it has already been accomplished, so that's why the statement is confusing. The Comptroller is not a political appointee, so it now sounds like the letter I have will not be acceptable. So I'm back to scrambling a bit this morning to find a political appointee to help. It's not that I think they won't help, but there is such a long process in getting correspondence cleared and signed by political appointees that I can't do that quickly. Thanks, Carole

From: Sopko, John F SES (USA) (b)(6)
Sent: Wednesday, August 18, 2021 9:42 PM
To: Clay, Carole L (b)(6)
Cc: ARLINGTON, JOHN G (SES) CIV SIGAR GEN COUN (USA) (b)(6); Aloise, Eugene E CIV (USA) (b)(6)
Subject: Re: [Non-DoD Source] RE: State Identified Possible Risk Based on Public Reports

Carole, this is a highly unusual request without any explanation or justification for why you are requesting that we review and delete certain documents that have been posted on our web site — all in violation of the IG Act. Many of the records you are talking about have been up on our web for 10 or more years and my IT people tell me even if we delete them they are still out there in the internet since there are numerous programs readily available that regularly sweep and capture such material. I would prefer someone at State who is a political appointee explain in writing why you are making such a request as well as what is the basis of the threat and how this very labor intensive request will accomplish anything other than waste taxpayer dollars. John Sopko, SIGAR

Sent from my iPad

On Aug 18, 2021, at 5:47 PM, Clay, Carole L (b)(6) Caution-mailto (b)(6) > wrote:

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IG Sopko, Thank you for your quick reply. Is an email sufficient or do you require a signed letter? Thank you, Carole Clay

Carole Clay

State Department, Bureau of the Comptroller and Global Financial Services
Director, Office of Management Controls

(b) (6)
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Caution-mailto (b) (6) < Caution-Caution-
mailto:(b) (6) [REDACTED]

From: Sopko, John F SES (USA) (b) (6) Caution-
mailto:(b) (6) >
Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Bern, Jaryd M CIV SIGAR (USA) (b) (6) Caution-
mailto:(b) (6) [REDACTED]
Cc: Aloise, Eugene E CIV (USA) (b) (6) Caution-
mailto:(b) (6) [REDACTED] >; Dove, Matthew D CIV (USA)
<(b) (6) [REDACTED]>; ARLINGTON, JOHN
G (SES) CIV SIGAR GEN COUN (USA) (b) (6) Caution-
mailto:(b) (6) [REDACTED] >; Harmon, Scott (Kabul) <(b) (6) [REDACTED] Caution-
mailto:(b) (6) [REDACTED] >; Harmon, B S (Scott) CIV (USA)
<(b) (6) [REDACTED] Caution-mailto:(b) (6) [REDACTED] > >; Clay, Carole L
<(b) (6) [REDACTED] Caution-mailto (b) (6) [REDACTED] >; Lawrence, Robert B CIV SIGAR CCR (USA)
<(b) (6) [REDACTED] Caution-mailto (b) (6) [REDACTED] >; LaVelle,
Philip J CIV (USA) <(b) (6) [REDACTED] Caution-mailto:(b) (6) [REDACTED]
Subject: Re: State Identified Possible Risk Based on Public Reports

Do not take anything down until we receive an official request in writing.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2021, at 4:03 PM, Bern, Jaryd M CIV SIGAR (USA)
(b) (6) [REDACTED] Caution-Caution-mailto (b) (6) [REDACTED] < Caution-
mailto:(b) (6) [REDACTED] > > >
wrote:

+ Phil and Robert

We may also need to consider SIGAR reports posted to oversight.gov.

Jaryd

Jaryd Bern | Chief of Staff
Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction
(b) (6) [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2021, at 4:01 PM, Aloise, Eugene E CIV (USA)

(b) (6) < Caution-Caution-
mailto: < Caution-
mailto: %3c Caution-Caution-
mailto: > > wrote:

I agree. We can temporarily remove from websites. Especially financial audits.

Sent from my iPhone

On Aug 16, 2021, at 3:43 PM, Dove, Matthew D CIV (USA)

(b) (6)

Thanks Carol and appreciate the chat.

Mr. Sopko, Gene, and John,

Please see below from State, Bureau of the Comptroller and Global Financial Services; Carole (Cc'd) is a strong, supportive colleague with whom I've worked for many years and she is tasked to execute this action on behalf of State Comptroller.

Bottom Line: State thinks some of the information in our reports (think Afghan companies/contract information) could put individuals at heightened risk given recent developments in Afghanistan. From my perspective, scrubbing OUR reports would be onerous and not timely (consider the work to just scrub our published financial audits). One option may be to temporarily disable certain portions of the website while the dust settles in Afghanistan and we decide on a long-term solution—I am not sure the implication of such action given our Congressional mandate to make our reports public, though. This decision is obviously above my paygrade. For what it is worth, my advice would be to consider working with State on this; State is already taking action websites it/USAID controls and the other OIGs/GAO may be taking similar action.

I am standing by to move out as instructed or to pass the ball to you for action.

Thanks!

Matt

From: Clay, Carole L (b) (6) <Caution-Caution-mailto (b) (6)>
<Caution-mailto (b) (6)>

Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 3:18 PM

To: Dove, Matthew D CIV (USA)

(b) (6)

Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: Message

All active links contained in this email were disabled. Please verify the identity of the sender, and confirm the authenticity of all links contained within the message prior to copying and pasting the address to a Web browser.

Matt, Thanks for your quick reply. The State Department would like to make an unprecedented request from SIGAR given the recent and dramatic changes in Afghanistan. We've worked together in the past and so I'm reaching out to you first, instead of going directly to Deputy Aloise. I would appreciate any advice and insight you can provide in how to best approach this request.

Essentially, we would like to request for SIGAR to suspend large portions of your website and public access to reports and records. We request urgent assistance in identifying and temporarily removing (and potentially redacting on a longer term basis) all potentially sensitive and identifying information on U.S. government assistance programs/projects in Afghanistan. A great many of your historical publications contain extensive details about activities and partners that could put individuals at risk in the current environment.

For the websites that State/F and USAID/PPL and USAID/MCIO control, e.g. [ForeignAssitance.gov](https://www.foreignassistance.gov/), Foreign Assistance Resource Library, Development Experience Clearinghouse etc. immediate actions are being taken to remove the following type of information for awards for Afghanistan or regional awards where Afghanistan is expressly mentioned:

- Implementing partner name
- Implementing partner DUNS#
- Award Title
- Award Description
- Evaluations, assessments, studies, other publications that contain any of the above are being temporarily removed until they can be reviewed carefully

We are also making requests to the GAO and the OIG communities to assist in this effort. Because SIGAR is probably the most extensive source for vendor and other information in Afghanistan through the information available for your website, it might be easiest to disable the website functionality for accessing reports and other publications and notifications. Obviously we request this as soon as possible. I've available to discuss further at (b) (6) (cell). Could you please advise what you think the best way for us to advance this request to your upper management? Thanks for your help, Carole

Carole Clay

State Department, Bureau of the Comptroller and Global Financial Services
Director, Office of Management Controls

(b) (6)

From: Dove, Matthew D CIV (USA)

(b) (6)

Sent: Monday, August 16, 2021 3:04 PM

To: Clay, Carole L (b) (6)

Subject: Message

Greetings Carol,

I received word from the SIGAR Front Desk that you were trying to reach me.

How can I help?

Matt