The U.S. Department of Energy and the Role of the Inspector General

Institute of Brazilian Studies
Anti-Corruption Program
Washington, DC
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Essence of the Department of Energy

- National Security, Environmental Remediation, Scientific Research, Renewable Energy
  - $181 Billion in Assets
  - $28 Billion Annual Budget
  - $40 Billion Received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
  - $100 Billion in Loan Guarantee Authority
NATIONAL SECURITY

- Nuclear Weapons Stockpile
- Nuclear Nonproliferation
- Naval Reactors
- Defense Laboratories
ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION

- Largest Cleanup Effort in the World
- 108 Contaminated Sites Covering 2 Million Acres
- Involves 35,000 Workers
- Estimated Cost of $300 Billion

Rocky Flats (before and after)
Scientific Discovery and Innovation

- 40% of Basic Science Research
- Medical Research
- 30,000 Scientists and Engineers
- 17 National Laboratories
More than 300 Active R&D Projects

Between 2001 and 2007, more than $10 billion toward developing clean, affordable, and domestically produced energy sources

At the Forefront of Energy Efficiency Research

- Wind
- Solar
- Biomass
What the IG can do ...

- Provide the Secretary with an impartial set of “eyes and ears”
- Serve as independent fact-finders in high profile, controversial matters
- Apprehend those attempting to defraud the Government and people of the United States
- Ensure that the taxpayers have a “seat at the table”
Office of Inspector General
Results in Brief

**Outputs**
- 464 Audit and Inspection Reports
- 634 Closed Investigative Cases
- 6,976 Complaints

**Outcomes**
- $1 Billion in One-Time Savings
- $173 Million in Investigative Recoveries
- $154 Million in Questioned Costs
- 144 Criminal Convictions
- 202 Suspensions and Debarments
Who We Are

Healthy Skepticism

Overly Cynical  Unquestioning
Audit Report

The Department of Energy’s Use of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in Response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita

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