

Management Letter 11-13

Potential Unwarranted Payment to a NARA Contractor

On June 15, 2011 the OIG reported that a senior NARA official was attempting to authorize an approximately \$1.5 million payment to a contractor, which did not appear warranted under the contract. The official's justification lacked supporting details and was based upon rationale we believed deviated from criteria established and exercised for the purpose of determining contractor payments. This senior official's proposed action differed from the position of other involved NARA personnel, who were critical of the contractor's performance. Prior to any funds being disbursed, the OIG advised the Archivist that we lacked documentation to serve as a basis for making this payment, and we did not believe it was in the best interest of the agency or the taxpayer.