



NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and* RECORDS ADMINISTRATION
8601 ADELPHI ROAD COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001
www.archives.gov

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

November 14, 2019

Mr. John Ellis
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (MC 2822T)
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Ellis:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) was made aware of allegations of unlawful destruction of agency records by Chief of Staff Ryan Jackson in a Politico article published on November 7, 2019.

The article reports that, “The Environmental Protection Agency’s inspector general is investigating whether Chief of Staff Ryan Jackson was involved in destroying internal documents that should have been retained...”

If federal records are being unlawfully destroyed without proper authorization from NARA, such activity must cease immediately, and as required in 36 CFR 1230.14, EPA must promptly report to NARA any unauthorized disposition of agency records.

In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.16(b), please provide us with a response within 30 calendar days that includes a complete description of the records (including an approximation of the volume and dates of all destroyed records); a statement of what safeguards have been put into place (or will be put into place) to prevent any future unauthorized disposition or unlawful destruction of agency records; exact details of the circumstances surrounding any unauthorized disposition of agency records; and an outline of any actions taken to retrieve or recreate the records.

If you have any questions about this allegation or the agency requirements under the CFR, please contact me at Laurence.Brewer@nara.gov or at (301) 837-1539.

Sincerely,

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government



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December 2, 2020

Mr. John Ellis
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Ave NW (MC 2822T)
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Ellis:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received your report dated December 12, 2019, in response to an allegation of unauthorized disposition of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) records. This case was based on information in a Politico article published on November 7, 2019.

The article reported that, "The Environmental Protection Agency's Inspector General is investigating whether Chief of Staff Ryan Jackson was involved in destroying internal documents that should have been retained..."

Your report states that after a thorough review EPA has no reason to believe that any agency records have been destroyed, and that there are no pending Office of Inspector General (OIG) investigations into this matter. Based on the information provided in your report, NARA considers this allegation of unauthorized disposition of agency records unfounded. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

LAURENCE BREWER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government