



OFFICE of  
**INSPECTOR GENERAL**  
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

## External Peer Review Report

August 24, 2023

To: The Honorable Ben R. Wagner  
Inspector General  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Office of the Inspector General

This required external peer review was conducted in accordance with the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Inspection and Evaluation Committee guidance as contained in the CIGIE Guide for Conducting External Peer Reviews of Inspection and Evaluation Organizations of Federal Offices of Inspector General (December 2021). The peer review was conducted from April 24, 2023, through August 24, 2023.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Office of Inspector General (OIG), as the Reviewing OIG, assessed the extent to which the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) OIG complied with the CIGIE Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation, December 2020 (Blue Book). This assessment included a review of the TVA OIG's internal policies and procedures set forth in the TVA OIG Evaluation Manual issued July 29, 2022, for implementing the Blue Book standards. It also included a review of selected evaluation reports issued between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2023, to determine whether the reports complied with the Blue Book standards and TVA OIG internal policies and procedures.

The Reviewing OIG determined that TVA OIG policies and procedures generally were consistent with the Blue Book standards addressed in the external peer review. All three of the reports reviewed generally complied with the Blue Book standards.

TVA OIG management officials provided a response to our Peer Review Report (Enclosure 2) in which they agreed with our conclusions.

Rae Oliver Davis  
Inspector General



## ENCLOSURE 1: Scope and Methodology

The HUD OIG review team selected the following three reports for review:

Type	Number	Title	Group	Date
Report	2022-17335	Allen Integrated Site	Organizational Effectiveness	4/2022
Memorandum	2021-17270	Groundwater at TVA Nuclear Plants	Evaluations	7/2022
Report	2020-15747	Power Supply Plan	Evaluations	10/2022

TVA OIG provided the review team with a list of all evaluations published during the review period, from April 1, 2020, through March 31, 2023. The review team compared this list against the evaluations identified on TVA OIG’s website to confirm that TVA OIG issued 56 evaluation reports during the review period. Each of these 56 reports stated that it was performed in accordance with Blue Book standards.

In accordance with CIGIE peer review guidance, the review team considered reports issued during the 1-year period before the start of the peer review. During that time frame, TVA OIG issued 15 reports, 9 by its Evaluations Group and 6 by its Organizational Effectiveness Group. To best approximate this ratio, the review team selected two Evaluations Group reports and one Organizational Effectiveness Group report. Additional criteria considered for report selection included report type (two full evaluation reports, one memorandum report), varying subject matter, distinct project leads, number of recommendations, and project documentation process. TVA OIG provided no limitations or recommendations on the selection of sample reports.

The review team conducted this evaluation remotely. TVA OIG provided a laptop to each review team member and provided access to all project documentation for each report. During the evaluation, the review team submitted written questions to TVA OIG requesting clarifications when necessary regarding policies and procedures and sample reports. The review team did not identify any constraints on its ability to exercise its professional judgment or impairments to its independence during the course of its review.

## ENCLOSURE 2: TVA OIG's Comments to Draft Peer Review Report



**Office of the Inspector General**  
Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1401

Ben R. Wagner  
Inspector General

August 2, 2023

The Honorable Rae Oliver Davis  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development  
Office of Inspector General  
451 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Ms. Oliver Davis:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft External Peer Review Report, dated August 1, 2023, which summarized the results of your assessment of our evaluation organization's internal policies and procedures and a review of three evaluation reports issued between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2023. We are pleased that your independent review determined that our policies and procedures were generally consistent with CIGIE's *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, December 2020 (Blue Book), and that all three reports which were reviewed generally complied with the Blue Book standards.

I would like to thank you and the review team for the work they did and the insightfulness and professionalism demonstrated throughout the review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ben R. Wagner". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Ben R. Wagner  
Inspector General