

Two Employees Suspended for Misuse of Government Computers

In two separate instances, EPA employees received 30-day suspensions for using Government computers to access pornographic Web sites.

On February 14, 2005, an Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response employee was suspended for 30 days for inappropriately using EPA's computer network. An OIG investigation developed evidence that the employee violated EPA Order 2100.3A1, Policy on Limited Personal Use of Government Office Equipment, between August 2003 and June 2004, by accessing thousands of pornographic Web sites and images during the work day.

On March 15, 2005, a Region 5 employee was suspended without pay for 30 days as a result of another OIG investigation. This investigation focused on the employee repeatedly misusing his Government computer to access adult Internet sites and downloading sexually explicit pictures, despite numerous reminders that using Government equipment to access sexually explicit materials is prohibited.

Such misuse of Agency equipment negatively impacts productivity and potentially exposes the EPA network and its users to risks from suspect Web sites. The OIG will continue to work with EPA Information Security personnel to ensure the integrity of EPA's systems.