

Two Employees Suspended for Using a Government Computer to Access Pornography

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

On October 31, 2005, a Region 5 employee was suspended for 5 days for inappropriate use of 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 January and September 2004, by attempting to access numerous pornographic Web sites and downloading sexually explicit pictures during the work day.

On January 4, 2006, another Region 5 employee was suspended without pay for 30 days as a result of another OIG investigation. This investigation focused on the employee's 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.

(Combined cost of these two cases: \$55,467)