

TESTIMONY OF RICHARD A. PELLETIER
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U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION POLICY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS
AND PROCUREMENT REFORM
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

October 6, 2011

Chairman Lankford, Ranking Member Connolly, and members of the subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to testify on the United States Environmental Protection Agency's suspension and debarment program. I am the Suspension and Debarment Official for the agency.

Since 1981, the EPA has maintained a robust suspension and debarment program, and is currently one of three federal agencies that have a full-time Suspension and Debarment Official. Historically, the EPA has been a leader in this area. For over twenty years, my predecessor served as the chair of the Interagency Suspension and Debarment Committee. In 2003, together with representatives from the Air Force, the Defense Logistics Agency, and the General Services Administration, the EPA was the moving force behind the creation of the National Suspension and Debarment Training Program, which is a three-day program offered through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Glynco, Georgia. The program provides detailed suspension and debarment training for government investigators, contracting officers, award officials, auditors, inspector general personnel, and lawyers. I continue to be the coordinator for this program and we provide three of the six instructors for the three or four courses offered each fiscal year.

The EPA suspension and debarment program consists of two components – statutory debarments under the Clean Air and the Clean Water Acts, as well as discretionary actions taken under either the Non-procurement Common Rule at 2 C.F.R. Part 180, or the Federal Acquisition Regulation Part 9.4. The EPA almost exclusively uses the Non-procurement Common Rule for all discretionary actions, whether procurement or non-procurement related.

the Interagency Suspension and Debarment Committee and non-government groups such as the American Bar Association subcommittee on suspension and debarment.

The EPA is proud of its rich history of vigorously protecting the agency's and federal government's business interests by exercising its suspension and debarment authority to make non-responsible entities and other individuals ineligible to receive the taxpayers' money. Suspension and debarment are important tools in accomplishing the agency's mission of protecting public health and the environment. The agency is committed to continuing its appropriate exercise of suspension and debarment authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.