



May 23, 2017

Mr. Ralph Jay Storey  
Records Officer  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Mail Stop 159  
GS17000615  
12201 Sunrise Valley Drive  
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Mr. Storey,

On May 16, 2017, the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) received a report from the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) documenting an incident of unauthorized alteration of Federal records. In September 2016, the USGS became aware of allegations regarding two employees making unauthorized adjustments to the inputs to an inductively coupled plasma mass spectrometer (ICP-MS). These input adjustments resulted in alterations of the data output of the instrument. The incidents in question occurred over a number of years (2008-2014) until management of the laboratory in question discovered it. The location of this data alteration was the Inorganic Section of the Energy Resources Geochemistry laboratory (EGL) in Building 25 at the Denver Federal Center.

The May 16, 2017, letter describes the events and corrective actions, which include specific actions recommended by the Department of Interior Office of Inspector General. The measures described in your letter satisfy all the requirements listed in 36 CFR 1230.14 on reporting to NARA any unlawful or accidental destruction of Federal records. NARA accepts your description of the events and the corrective actions taken to address the loss of records in this matter.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES *and*  
RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD  
COLLEGE PARK, MD 20740-6001

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

NARA considers this case closed. Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please contact Andrea Noel, Senior Records Analyst, at 301-837-3564 or by email at [andrea.noel@nara.gov](mailto:andrea.noel@nara.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laurence Brewer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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