

Investigators Find Whitman Had No Stake in Cleanups

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Independent federal investigators have concluded there is no basis for an ombudsman's claims that Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christine Todd Whitman had a conflict of interest in three large-scale cleanups, including the World Trade Center.

The report by the EPA inspector general's office concludes "the allegations were not substantiated, criminal prosecution was declined, and, thus, no further investigation is warranted in this matter."

Investigators from the EPA and the Justice Department spent seven months looking into claims by former EPA ombudsman Robert Martin and his senior aide, Hugh Kaufman, that Whitman had a personal financial interest influencing decisions at the cleanup in New York and two Superfund toxic waste sites, Shattuck Chemical Co. in Denver and Marjol Battery and Equipment Co. in Throop, Pa.

"I'm pleased that the inspector general conducted such a thorough investigation," Whitman said. "As both governor and EPA administrator, upholding the highest ethical standard has always been of utmost importance to me. This report confirms that fact."

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