

[REDACTED]

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**From:** Head of Investigations [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, May 03, 2013 3:34 PM  
**To:** Principal Deputy IG; Head of Audits [REDACTED]; TIGTA Chief Counsel; Tax Exempt Audit Head [REDACTED]  
TIGTA  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] TIGTA; [REDACTED] TIGTA  
**Subject:** Review of E-Mails

Gentlemen,

As a result of our meeting with Russell a couple of weeks ago, we agreed to pull e-mails from identified staff members of the EO organization in Cincinnati to find out 1). If an e-mail existed that directed the staff to "target" Tea Party and other political organizations and 2). If there was a conspiracy or effort to hide e-mails about the alleged directive.

Audit provided us with a list of employees in question, key word search terms and a timeframe for the e-mails. We pulled the available IRS e-mails, which resulted in 5,500 responsive e-mails.

Review of these e-mails revealed that there was a lot of discussion between the employees on how to process the Tea Party and other political organization applications. There was a Be On the Lookout (BOLO) list specifically naming these groups; however, the e-mails indicated the organizations needed to be pulled because the IRS employees were not sure how to process them, not because they wanted to stall or hinder the application. There was no indication that pulling these selected applications was politically motivated. The e-mail traffic indicated there were unclear processing directions and the group wanted to make sure they had guidance on processing the applications so they pulled them. This is a very important nuance.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Deputy Inspector General for Investigations