The Office of Personnel Management (OPM) began mailing notification letters to the several million individuals impacted by the breach of the OPM data files alerting them that their data was compromised and describing the identity protection services available for three years through ID Experts.

OPM representatives advise that these notification letters will be sent through U.S. Postal Mail.

The data breach included data submitted to request a security clearance. The data processed for a clearance includes family and people that the applicant lives with regardless of relationship. Family includes spouse, children, parents and siblings.

You may receive a letter:

- If you are a current, former or prospective government employee and your background investigation data was breached
- If you are a spouse of a background investigation applicant
- If you are a co-habitant of a background investigation applicant

Legitimate letters from the OPM will have a 25 digit PIN to register for credit and identity monitoring services. Recipients can go to https://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity to get more information and sign up for monitoring. If yours is a legitimate letter, then the PIN will work.

Below is a copy of a legitimate notification letter from the OPM. Please note that the PIN number in this letter has been redacted in an effort to keep the recipient’s information private and secure.

If you receive one of these letters, you should visit the Cybersecurity Resource Center website to compare the letter to the examples listed there to make sure it is authentic. The letter should direct you to OPM’s cybersecurity website at https://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity. Any email that asks for personal information, or any version of the letter that does not direct individuals to OPM’s cyber security website should be considered fraudulent and reported to local law enforcement as well as the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

This information is being provided to you by the NRLCA as notification that the Office of Personnel Management is mailing these letters to all rural carriers active, retired and deceased that had their data breached from OPM records as described above. While the sample letter attached is a copy of a legitimate letter, if you receive a letter that you are uncertain of its legitimacy, contact the Office of Personnel Management at: 888-767-6738.
Dear [Redacted]:

As you may know, the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) was the target of a malicious cyber intrusion carried out against the U.S. Government, which resulted in the theft of background investigation records. Most of the individuals whose information was stolen previously provided information for a background investigation or were listed on a background investigation form by a spouse or co-habitant.

You are receiving this notification because we have determined that your Social Security Number and other personal information was included in the intrusion. As someone whose information was also taken, I share your concern and frustration and want you to know we are working hard to help those impacted by this incident. The Federal government will provide you and your dependent minor children with comprehensive identity theft protection and monitoring services, at no cost to you.

If you applied for a position or submitted a background investigation form, the information in our records may include your name, Social Security number, address, date and place of birth, residency, educational, and employment history, personal foreign travel history, information about immediate family as well as business and personal acquaintances, and other information used to conduct and adjudicate your background investigation.

If your information was listed on a background investigation form by a spouse, or co-habitant, the information in our records may include your name, Social Security number, address, date and place of birth, and in some cases, your citizenship information.

While we are not aware of any misuse of your information, we are providing a comprehensive suite of identity theft protection and monitoring services. We are offering you, and any of your dependent children who were under the age of 18 as of July 1, 2015, credit monitoring, identity monitoring, identity theft insurance and identity restoration services for the next three years through ID Experts, a company that specializes in identity theft protection. The identity theft insurance and identity restoration service coverage has already begun. You have access to these services at any time during the next three years if your identity is compromised.

To take advantage of the additional credit and identity monitoring services, you must enroll with ID Experts using the PIN code at the top of this letter. To enroll go to https://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity. You may also call 800-750-3004 to enroll in or ask questions about these services. I hope you will take advantage of these services.

Please note that OPM and ID Experts will not contact you to confirm any personal information. If you are contacted by anyone asking for your personal information in relation to this incident, do not provide it.

For additional resources such as information you may share with people listed on your forms, sample background investigation forms, types of information which may have been taken, and tips on how to protect your personal information, visit https://www.opm.gov/cybersecurity.

Sincerely,

Beth F. Cobert
Acting Director
Office of Personnel Management