



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

February 4, 2015

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Evaluation of Time-Critical Removal Actions for Superfund Sites
Project No. OPE-FY15-0019

FROM: Christina Lovingood, Director /s/
Land Cleanup and Waste Management Evaluations
Office of Program Evaluation

TO: Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the evaluation of the effectiveness of time-critical removal actions for Superfund sites on February 24, 2015. This project is included in our fiscal year 2015 annual plan.

The evaluation objective is to determine the EPA's effectiveness in completing and documenting removal actions that are protective of human health and the environment. Specifically, we will address the following question: Can the EPA provide documentation that imminent and substantial endangerment threats to public health at time-critical removal sites have been addressed?

This objective question is preliminary and subject to change if the OIG moves into the fieldwork phase of the evaluation. The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters and selected regions. We will interview relevant managers and staff in the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation, the Office of Emergency Management, and others as necessary. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our evaluation. The anticipated benefits of this project are improved business practices and confirmation of the efficacy of EPA's time-critical removal actions.

We will work with your Audit Follow-Up Coordinator to arrange a kickoff meeting at a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your questions about the project process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the course of the project. Throughout the project, we will provide updates on a regular basis to agreed-upon contacts from your office on the status of our evaluation.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978 to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objectives. We will request your resolution if an agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested records to the OIG, or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG. We may report unresolved access matters to the Administrator and include the incident in the Semiannual Report to Congress.

The project will be supervised by me and the Project Manager will be Patrick Milligan. Any information related to the project should be addressed to Christina Lovingood at (202) 566-2906 or lovingood.tina@epa.gov, or Patrick Milligan at (215) 814-2326 or patrick.milligan@epa.gov.

cc: Barry N. Breen, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste and
Emergency Response
Robin Richardson, Acting Director, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation,
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
Reggie Cheatham, Acting Director, Office of Emergency Management, Office of Solid Waste
and Emergency Response
Kecia Thornton, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response
Valerie Marshall, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 1
John Svec, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 2
Lorraine Fleury, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 3
Dorothy Rayfield, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 4
Eric Levy, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 5
Susan Jenkins, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 6
Kathy Finazzo, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 7
Wayne Anthofer, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 8
Magdalen Mak, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 9
Carrie Williams, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Region 10
Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Aracely Nunez-Mattocks, Chief of Staff, Office of Inspector General
Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General
Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
Patricia Hill, Assistant Inspector General for Mission Systems
Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General