



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 17, 2014

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification: Risks from Post-Closure Care Expiration at Resource Conservation and Recovery Act Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites
Project No. OPE-FY14-0034

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

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

Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on April 1, 2014, on the subject evaluation. This evaluation is included in our fiscal year 2014 annual plan. The evaluation objective and subobjectives are:

Do the EPA and authorized states and territories have safeguards to control public health, environmental and fiscal risks at Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) hazardous waste disposal sites, closed with wastes in place, beyond the 30-year post-closure care period? Specifically:

- Do public health, environmental and fiscal risks remain at the end of the post-closure care period at these disposal sites?
- Do authorities have controls in place to mitigate risks remaining at the end of the post-closure care period?
- Has the EPA taken steps needed to ensure that authorities address risks appropriately as disposal sites approach the end of post-closure care?

These objective questions are preliminary and subject to change if the OIG moves into the fieldwork phase of the evaluation.

We will conduct the evaluation using applicable generally accepted government auditing standards. We will interview relevant managers and staff in the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), and selected EPA regions and authorized states. We also will obtain information from outside organizations, such as the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials. We will update agreed-upon contacts from your offices on a regular basis on the status of our evaluation.

We will work with your Audit Follow-Up Coordinators to arrange a kickoff meeting at a mutually agreeable time to discuss the objectives, scope and purpose of preliminary research, as well as the responsibilities of the EPA and the OIG during the evaluation. We will answer any questions you have about the evaluation process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the course of the evaluation. At the kickoff meeting, we will also be interested in hearing about any of your concerns and obtaining your input on regions and states we should contact during preliminary research.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 566-2906 or lovingood.tina@epa.gov; or the Project Manager, Kathryn Hess, at (617) 918-1487 or hess.kathryn@epa.gov.

cc: Barnes Johnson, Director, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR), OSWER
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