



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 23, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
Evaluation of EPA's Regional Negotiated Commitments with States for  
FIFRA Compliance Inspections  
Project No. OPE-FY15-0022

**FROM:** Jeffrey Harris, Director  
Toxics, Chemical Management and Pollution Prevention Evaluations  
Office of Program Evaluation

**TO:** Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the EPA's regional negotiated commitments with states for Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) compliance inspections. The OIG's preliminary research objectives are to answer the following questions:

1. What are EPA's procedures for determining and periodically reviewing state commitments for FIFRA compliance inspections?
2. What criteria does EPA use to determine that the negotiated commitments meet EPA goals?
3. Does EPA have opportunities to modify state commitments and better use resources dedicated for these efforts?

The OIG plans to conduct work in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP). We plan to interview OECA and OCSPP staff about oversight, internal controls, and management of regional negotiated commitments for FIFRA state inspections. Based on information/data collected from OECA and OCSPP, we plan to select two EPA regional offices and two states to gather information about regional/state processes. We will conduct the project using applicable generally accepted government auditing standards.

The anticipated benefit of this project is to make recommendations, where appropriate, that optimize the effectiveness of EPA's limited FIFRA oversight resources, improve program management, and lead to

more effective and efficient use of cooperative agreement funds. This project is included in the OIG's fiscal year 2015 Annual Plan.

We will contact your audit liaisons to arrange a mutually agreeable time within 2 weeks to discuss our objectives, the purpose of our project, and any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any questions you may have 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.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (202) 566-0831 or [harris.jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:harris.jeffrey@epa.gov); or Jee Kim, Project Manager, at (913) 551-7009 or [kim.jee@epa.gov](mailto:kim.jee@epa.gov).

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