



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

May 27, 2015

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Determining the EPA's Awareness and Use of STAR Grant Results
Project No. OPE-FY15-0017

FROM: Patrick Gilbride /s/
Director for Science, Research and Management Integrity
Office of Program Evaluation

TO: Lek Kadeli
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin fieldwork to determine the EPA's awareness and use of Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grants. We originally notified you of this project—included in our fiscal year 2015 annual plan—via memorandum dated January 15, 2015, and during our January 29, 2015, kickoff meeting with the Office of Research and Development's (ORD's) National Center for Environmental Research (NCER).

For fieldwork, we modified our objective to determine whether NCER makes EPA program offices aware of relevant STAR grant results and whether the grant results advance the agency's mission of protecting human health and the environment. As we discussed during our May 7, 2015, status meeting with NCER, we plan to survey various EPA customers/stakeholders on the usefulness of STAR grant results, and we will consider NCER's suggestions for survey questions and recipients. We will use applicable generally accepted government auditing standards to conduct our project.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective and the fieldwork 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 fieldwork, we will continue to provide monthly status updates.

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.

We greatly appreciate all of the information and assistance ORD has provided thus far.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (303) 312-6969 or gilbride.patrick@epa.gov or Erin Barnes-Weaver, Project Manager, at (303) 312-6871 or barnes-weaver.erin@epa.gov.

cc: Dr. Thomas Burke, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and EPA Science Advisor, ORD
Dr. Robert Kavlock, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, ORD
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