



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

June 27, 2014

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Evaluation of Siting Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Land and Mine Sites
Project No. OPE-FY14-0043

FROM: Christina Lovingood, Director /s/
Land Cleanup and Waste Management Program 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 EPA's work related to the siting of renewable energy on currently and formerly contaminated properties across the nation. Our review will include the RE-Powering America's Land Initiative as well as other applicable Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) programs. This project is included in our fiscal year 2014 annual plan.

The overall evaluation objective is to determine the environmental, public health and financial risks of siting renewable energy on currently and formerly contaminated properties. Specifically, we will address the following questions:

1. Do the EPA's efforts to promote siting renewable energy on potentially contaminated land and mine sites ensure short-and long-term human health and environmental protection on these contaminated sites?
2. Does the EPA measure and set specific goals for its program activities related to siting renewable energy on potentially contaminated land and mine sites, including, for example, economic or environmental return on investment?

The project will be conducted using applicable generally accepted government auditing standards. The anticipated benefits of the project are an increased understanding of human health and environmental protection risks at renewable energy sites on potentially contaminated land as well as enhanced operational efficiency. We will interview relevant managers and staff in OSWER, selected EPA regions, authorized states and selected experts. 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 Coordinator 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 OSWER 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, states and any experts we should contact during preliminary research.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (202) 566-2906 or lovingood.tina@epa.gov; or Jill Trynosky, Project Manager, at (202) 566-2718 or trynosky.jill@epa.gov.

cc: Barry Breen, Deputy Assistant Administrator, OSWER
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