



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

July 14, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
Review of Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act (BEACH Act)  
Grants for Beach Monitoring and Public Notification  
Project No. OPE-FY15-0056

**FROM:** Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General  
Office of Program Evaluation

**TO:** Ken Kopocis, Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin research on Office of Water grants for beach monitoring and public notification under the BEACH Act. This project is a discretionary assignment included in the OIG's Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Plan.

The OIG's objective for this assignment is to determine how federal BEACH Act grants assist states, territories and tribes in monitoring water quality of coastal recreational waters and notifying the public of contamination events.

The OIG plans to conduct work within the Office of Water and Office of Policy, EPA regions, and state program offices. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are to improve the effectiveness of the use of the BEACH Act dollars, and the operational efficiency of state monitoring and notification programs.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose 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 that are convenient for you and your staff. The specific method and frequency of updates can be determined during our meeting to discuss the objective and purpose of the assignment.

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 Khadija Walker, Project Manager, Water Issues. Any information related to the project should be addressed to Khadija Walker at (312) 886-3106 or [walker.khadija@epa.gov](mailto:walker.khadija@epa.gov), or Katie Butler at (404) 562-9736 or [butler.kathlene@epa.gov](mailto:butler.kathlene@epa.gov).

cc: Michael H. Shapiro, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water  
Betsy Southerland, Director, Office of Science and Technology, Office of Water  
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