



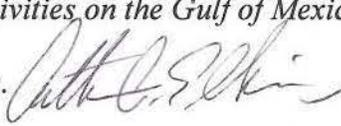
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

DEC - 4 2014

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Updates and Correction to EPA OIG Report No. 14-P-0348, *Nutrient Pollution: EPA Needs to Work With States to Develop Strategies for Monitoring the Impact of State Activities on the Gulf of Mexico Hypoxic Zone*, September 3, 2014

FROM: Arthur A. Elkins Jr. 

TO: Kenneth J. Kopocis, Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

We have reviewed your November 6, 2014, response to the subject report. We accept the agency's updates to the status of state nutrient reduction strategies; correction regarding the 2013 size of the Gulf Hypoxic Zone; and the various efforts being undertaken by the Office of Water nationally, including within the Mississippi River Basin, to reduce excess nitrogen and phosphorus in surface waters. Thank you for providing these additional details. As you complete the agreed-upon corrective actions, please update the EPA's Management Audit Tracking System. Please notify my staff if there is a significant change in the agreed-to corrective actions.

cc: Michael H. Shapiro, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
Ellen Gilinsky, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of Water
Marilyn Ramos, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Water
Chris Orvin, Program Analyst, Office of Water
Benita Best-Wong, Chief, Municipal Branch, Office of Water
Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
Dan Engelberg, Director, Water Evaluations, Office of Inspector General
Tim Roach, Project Manager, Office of Inspector General