



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 13, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Notification of Preliminary Research to Evaluate Hazardous Waste Passing Through Publicly Owned Treatment Works

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

**TO:** Nancy Stoner, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water

Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to start preliminary research to evaluate the effectiveness of the EPA's programs in preventing and addressing contamination of surface water from hazardous wastes passing through publicly owned treatment works. This project is included in our fiscal year 2013 annual plan.

The overall objective of this project is to evaluate the effectiveness of EPA's programs in preventing and addressing contamination of surface water from hazardous wastes passing through POTWs. This includes examining EPA's role and oversight of hazardous waste discharges to POTWs, and determining the effectiveness of EPA's management controls in regulating hazardous waste discharges from POTWs to surface water. Specifically, we plan to address the following questions:

1. Does EPA regulate hazardous waste discharges to and from POTWs?
2. Do POTWs monitor discharges for hazardous waste?
3. Has EPA taken actions to address discharges of hazardous wastes to and from POTWs?

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research of our project. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any questions that 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.

The OIG director for this review, Tina Lovingood, and the project manager, Steve Hanna, will supervise the project. We will provide email updates on a regular basis to agreed-upon contacts from your offices.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 566-0829 or [copper.carolyn@epa.gov](mailto:copper.carolyn@epa.gov); or Tina Lovingood at (202) 566-2906 or [Lovingood.christina@epa.gov](mailto:Lovingood.christina@epa.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

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