



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 13, 2013

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Preliminary Research to Evaluate the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Reduced-Risk Pesticide Initiative
Project No. OPE-FY13-0003

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

TO: Jim Jones, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

The Office of Inspector General is starting preliminary research on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Reduced-Risk Pesticide Initiative. This project is included in the OIG's fiscal year 2013 Annual Plan.

The purpose of this memorandum is to confirm our mutual understanding about the objective and scope of the evaluation, and the responsibilities of the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and the OIG during the project. The OIG's preliminary research objective is to determine if the EPA's Reduced-Risk Pesticide Initiative is meeting its goal of reducing risks to human health and the environment by encouraging the development, registration and use of pesticide products that are lower risk.

The anticipated benefits of this project are potential improvements in the protection of human health and the environment, by ensuring the EPA is meeting the intent of the 1996 amendment to Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act. The FIFRA requires the EPA to establish the expedited registration process for conventional reduced risk pesticides. In addition, this evaluation may identify process efficiencies that enable the EPA to accomplish its objectives more effectively or with fewer resources.

We will perform work within OCSPP and pesticide programs within EPA regions. We also may perform work outside the EPA. We will request information on conventional reduced-risk pesticide registration and use during preliminary research. We will conduct the project using applicable generally accepted government auditing standards.

Jerri Dorsey, the OIG acting director for Toxics, Chemical Management, and Pollution Prevention, and Kathryn Hess, project manager, will supervise the project. We will provide email updates on a regular basis to Stephen Schaible, coordinator for the Conventional Reduced Risk Pesticides Program, and to any other agreed-upon contacts from your office.

We will contact you through your audit follow-up coordinator, Janet Weiner, to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss the objective, the purpose of the preliminary research phase of the project, and any other areas of concern to you. We will answer any questions that you or your designees have about the project process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the project.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-566-0829 or copper.carolyn@epa.gov; or Jerri Dorsey at 919-541-3601 or jerri.dorsey@epa.gov.

cc:

Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

Louise Wise, Deputy Assistant Administrator

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Janet Weiner, Audit Follow-up Coordinator

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