



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

July 16, 2012

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Review of Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Grant Program
Project Number OA-FY12-0606

FROM: Melissa M. Heist *Melissa M. Heist*
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

TO: Lek Kadeli
Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development

Craig E. Hooks
Assistant Administrator
Office of Administration and Resources Management

EPA's Office of Inspector General (OIG) plans to begin preliminary research for an audit of grants awarded under EPA's Science to Achieve Results (STAR) program. The objectives for the preliminary research phase of the audit are:

- 1) Is EPA effectively monitoring activities of STAR grant recipients?
- 2) What actions does EPA take to ensure that no research misconduct is associated with any of the grant activities?

We plan to interview officials within the National Center for Environmental Research and the Office of Grants and Debarment. We also plan to interview the grants specialists and project officers assigned to a random sample of STAR grants. We will review grant and project officer files, guidance documents, and previous U.S. Government Accountability Office and EPA OIG reports that are relevant to our preliminary research. At the end of the preliminary research phase, we will decide whether additional work is warranted and whether the objectives should be modified.

We will contact your audit coordinators within the next few days to arrange a mutually agreeable time for a kick-off meeting to discuss the assignment. At the meeting we will answer any questions you may have about the assignment process, reporting procedures, methods we will

use to gather and analyze data, and what you should expect during the course of the project. To assist in conducting the assignment, we request that you provide the following information at the kick-off meeting:

1. A list of STAR grants with project end dates in fiscal years 2012 and 2013.
2. The Agency-wide scientific integrity policy.
3. The results of any Office of Research and Development office-wide risk assessments related to STAR grants.
4. A key contact list for the Office of Research and Development and Office of Grants and Debarment.

If you have any questions, please contact Janet Kasper, Director, Contracts and Assistance Agreements Audits, at (312) 886-3059 or kasper.janet@epa.gov; or Shannon Schofield, the Project Manager for this assignment, at (617) 918-1476 or schofield.shannon@epa.gov.

cc: James H. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D., Director, National Center for Environmental Research
Howard Corcoran, Director, Office of Grants and Debarment
Hyon Kim, Audit Coordinator, Office of Research and Development (HQ)
Joseph Lucia, Audit Coordinator, Office of Grants and Debarment
Arthur A. Elkins, Jr., Inspector General
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Richard Eyermann, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Carolyn Copper, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
Eileen McMahon, Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Patricia Hill, Assistant Inspector General for Mission Systems
Aracely Nunez-Mattock, Chief of Staff, Office of Inspector General
Eric Hanger, Acting Counsel to the Inspector General