



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 28, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
Evaluation of EPA's Regional Negotiated Commitments with States for  
FIFRA Compliance Inspections  
Project No. OPE-FY15-0022

**FROM:** Jeffrey Harris, Director  
Toxics, Chemical Management and Pollution Prevention Evaluations  
Office of Program Evaluation

**TO:** Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

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

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin field work on the subject evaluation with a modified objective from our March 23, 2015, notification memo.

The OIG's modified objective is to determine whether the EPA's negotiations, review and approval of state Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) cooperative agreement work plans for FIFRA compliance inspections support the achievement of agency goals and requirements. The OIG plans to conduct work in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) and the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP). Based on information/data collected from OECA, OCSPP and regional office staff during the preliminary research phase of the evaluation, we plan to select several EPA regional offices and states to gather information about regional/state processes. We will conduct the project using applicable generally accepted government auditing standards.

The anticipated benefit of this project is to make recommendations, where appropriate, to help optimize the effectiveness of the EPA's limited FIFRA oversight resources, improve program management, and lead to more effective and efficient use of cooperative agreement funds. This project is included in the OIG's fiscal year 2015 Annual Plan.

We will contact your audit liaisons to arrange a mutually agreeable time within 2 weeks to discuss our objective, the purpose of our project, and any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any questions 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.

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.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (202) 566-0831 or [harris.jeffrey@epa.gov](mailto:harris.jeffrey@epa.gov); or Jee Kim, Project Manager, at (913) 551-7009 or [kim.jee@epa.gov](mailto:kim.jee@epa.gov).

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