



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

November 30, 2012

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Review of STAR Grant Program
Project No. OA-FY12-0606

FROM: Melissa M. Heist
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

Melissa M. Heist

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

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

The EPA Office of Inspector General (OIG) is beginning the field work phase of our audit of the STAR (Science to Achieve Results) grant program. The EPA OIG's field work objectives are as follows:

1. Is EPA effectively monitoring STAR grant recipients' activities?
2. Does EPA verify that STAR grant recipients take action to ensure that research misconduct is not associated with grant activities?

The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters. We would like to schedule an entrance conference the week of December 3, 2012. At the meeting, we will discuss the results of our preliminary research and the additional work we will perform. The audit team will contact the Office of Research and Development audit liaison to schedule the meeting.

During field work, we will be contacting the grant recipients we reviewed during preliminary research to discuss the monitoring of grants, grant terms and conditions, and research misconduct. We will also be requesting a few recipients to provide us the documentation to support a sample of drawdowns. We would appreciate continued cooperation from EPA in providing access to staff for interviews and document collection, and timely responses to information and data requests.

We will regularly update the program office on the status of the audit during field work, which we anticipate will end in April 2013. During this project, the OIG plans to produce the following products by the dates specified:

<u>Products</u>	<u>Estimated Dates</u>
Finding Outlines	April 7, 2013
Draft Report	June 21, 2013
Final Report	August 29, 2013

The project will be supervised by Janet Kasper, Director of Contract and Assistance Agreement Audits; and Madeline Mullen, Project Manager. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 566-0899 or heist.melissa@epa.gov; or Janet Kasper at (312) 886-3059 or kasper.janet@epa.gov.

cc: James H. Johnson, Jr., Ph.D., Director, National Center for Environmental Research
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