



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

December 18, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification  
Effectiveness of Wetlands Mitigation Guidelines, Project No. OPE-FY13-0008

**FROM:** Carolyn Copper /s/  
Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation

**TO:** Nancy Stoner  
Acting Assistant Administrator for Water

The EPA Office of Inspector General (OIG) is starting preliminary research on EPA's Wetlands Program under the Clean Water Act Section 404. This project is included in our FY 2013 annual plan.

The purpose of this memorandum is to schedule a kickoff meeting to confirm our mutual understandings on the objective and scope of the evaluation and the responsibilities of the Office of Water and the EPA OIG during the project.

The OIG's objective is to determine how EPA verifies that the application of its wetlands restoration and protection guidelines achieves the agency's strategic goal of a no net loss of wetlands. We will analyze the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency's oversight of avoidance, minimization and mitigation activities. We plan to perform work within the Office of Water and EPA regions. We may also perform work with States and the US Army Corps of Engineers. The project will be conducted using applicable *Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards*. The anticipated benefits of this project are improved program integrity and effectiveness through ensuring that the Office of Water is adequately protecting the nation's wetlands.

The project will be supervised by Dan Engelberg, Director of Water and Enforcement Issues and Tim Roach, Project Manager. In addition, we will provide updates on a regular basis through monthly meetings and correspondence with members of your office.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 202-566-0829 or [carolyn.copper@epa.gov](mailto:carolyn.copper@epa.gov) or Dan Engelberg at 202-566-0830 or [engelberg.dan@epa.gov](mailto:engelberg.dan@epa.gov).

We will contact you within one week to arrange a mutually agreeable time to schedule our evaluation kickoff meeting to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We would also be particularly interested in 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.

cc: Marilyn Ramos, Audit Follow-up Coordinator, Office of Water  
Michael H. Shapiro, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water  
Denise Keehner, Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds  
Benita Best-Wong, Deputy Director, Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds  
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