



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

September 11 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
Review of EPA's Implementation of Benzene Fuel Content Standards  
Project No. OPE-FY15-0051

**FROM:** James Hatfield, Acting Director, Air Evaluations  
Office of Program Evaluation

**TO:** Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Air and Radiation

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the EPA's implementation of benzene fuel content standards. This project is a discretionary assignment included in the OIG's Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Plan.

The OIG's objective for this assignment is to determine the effectiveness of the EPA's process and controls for ensuring that gasoline refiners and importers are meeting EPA standards for benzene content in gasoline. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used to conduct our project. The anticipated benefit is to improve controls over compliance with EPA standards for benzene content in gasoline.

We will contact your audit liaison to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We will answer any of your questions 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 would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. Throughout the project, we will provide updates on the status of our evaluation as agreed upon at this meeting.

To ensure the success and timely completion of this project, please provide the following information (electronic copies or links are acceptable) on or before the kickoff meeting:

- EPA policies, procedures and guidance related to EPA implementation and oversight of the Mobile Source Air Toxics 2 (MSAT2) benzene regulations.
- Links to, or information on how to access, reports the EPA received from all refineries for 2012, 2013 and 2014. This includes the Annual Gasoline Benzene Reports and Reformulated Gasoline (RFG) & Anti-Dumping Annual Benzene Reports.

- An example of an attest engagement report received by the EPA.
- Any MSAT2-related summary reports that the EPA generated based on reports received from refineries subject to the MSAT2 rule for 2012, 2013 and 2014.
- A list of EPA headquarters and regional offices involved with EPA oversight of benzene content in gasoline requirements and contact information.

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.

I will supervise this project, and Erica Hauck will be the Project Manager. Any information or questions related to the project should be addressed to me at (919) 541-1030 or [hatfield.jim@epa.gov](mailto:hatfield.jim@epa.gov), or Erica Hauck at (303) 312-6629 or [hauck.ERICA@epa.gov](mailto:hauck.ERICA@epa.gov).

cc: Elizabeth Shaw, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation  
Chris Grundler, Director, Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Office of Air and Radiation  
Maureen Hingeley, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Air and Radiation  
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