



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Follow-Up Review on OIG Report No. 13-P-0356, *Public May Be Making Indoor Mold Cleanup Decisions Based on EPA Tool Developed Only for Research Applications*

FROM: Eric Lewis, Director /s/
Special Program Reviews
Office of Program Evaluation

TO: Thomas Burke, Deputy Assistant Administrator and Science Advisor
Office of Research and Development

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is starting a follow-up review on the EPA's actions to address recommendations in the subject report, issued August 22, 2013. Follow-up reviews are included in our fiscal year 2016 annual plan. Our review will focus on the status of corrective actions for the three reported recommendations documented in the agency's Management Audit Tracking System as having been completed. Our review objectives will be to determine whether the Office of Research and Development implemented corrective actions to address the previous OIG recommendations to:

1. Periodically review licensee advertising to determine whether licensees have violated the terms of their agreement by implying the EPA's endorsement of mold specific quantitative polymerase chain reaction (MSQPCR) technology, and take appropriate action based on the results of this review.
2. Remove or clarify statements on the EPA's website that imply or suggest the EPA validated or endorsed MSQPCR for public use.
3. Finalize the fact sheet on indoor mold, MSQPCR and the Environmental Relative Moldiness Index, to include discussion on the limitations of these tools, and make the fact sheet available to the public, including on the EPA's website.

The project manager will be Dwayne Crawford and the team member will be Ben Beeson. We will contact your staff to arrange a mutually agreeable time for a kickoff meeting within 30 days from the date of this memorandum. During the meeting, we will answer any questions you have about the review process. At or before the meeting, we would like to have the following information provided to us in an electronic format:

- Documentation that supports the completion of each corrective action taken for each recommendation.
- The point of contact information for the individuals we would need to meet with to discuss the status of corrective actions for each recommendation.

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.

We will provide routine updates on the status of our review to agreed-upon contacts from your office. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 566-2664 or lewis.eric@epa.gov, or Dwayne E. Crawford at (202) 566-2894 or crawford.dwayne@epa.gov.

cc: Nic Grzegozewski, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
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