



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 25, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Evaluation of EPA's Management of Resistance Issues Related to Herbicide Tolerant Genetically Engineered Crops
Project No. OPE-FY16-0023

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

TO: 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 preliminary research to assess the EPA's management and oversight of resistance issues related to herbicide tolerant genetically engineered crops. Our review will include the Office of Pesticide Programs as well as other applicable headquarters and regional offices.

Our objectives are to determine:

- (1) What processes and practices, including alternatives, has the EPA provided to delay herbicide resistance?
- (2) What steps has the EPA taken to determine and validate the accurate risk to human health and the environment for approved pesticides to be used to combat herbicide resistant weeds?
- (3) Does the EPA independently collect and assess data on, and mitigate actual occurrences of, herbicide resistance in the field?

The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters and at any other applicable sites. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used to conduct our project. The anticipated benefit of this project is a greater understanding of herbicide resistance which will lead to an enhancement of EPA's herbicide resistance management and oversight.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We are also interested in any areas of concern that you may have. 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. Throughout the project, we will provide regular teleconference or videoconference updates to the point of contact designated by your office.

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 our Semiannual Report to Congress.

Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (202) 566-0831 or harris.jeffrey@epa.gov; or to the Project Manager, Laretta Joseph, at (212) 637-3049 or joseph.lauretta@epa.gov.

cc: Louise Wise, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Jack Housenger, Director, Office of Pesticide Program, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Janet Weiner, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Nic Grzegozewski, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
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