



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

April 5, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
Controls Over Results Produced by EPA Independent Laboratories  
Project No. OPE-FY16-0022

**FROM:** Patrick Gilbride, Director /s/  
Science, Risk and Management Integrity Evaluations  
Office of Program Evaluation

**TO:** Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Land and Emergency Management

Donna Vizian, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Administration and Resources Management

Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on controls that the EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management's Contract Laboratory Program (CLP) has in place to detect or prevent fraud. This review is included in the OIG Annual Plan for fiscal year 2016.

We plan to: (1) determine whether the CLP has controls to detect or prevent fraudulent analytical services or data produced by CLP laboratories, and whether those controls provide reasonable assurance that the potential for fraud is minimized; and (2) identify how EPA monitors laboratory fraud cases across the agency to inform its system of controls.

To expedite our review, we request that you provide us the following information, if available, by April 19, 2016:

1. CLP operations manual.
2. List of CLP policies and procedures (or Web address where policies and procedures are maintained).
3. Names and locations of current CLP laboratories.
4. List of CLP audit reports from on-site lab audits conducted in the last two fiscal years (Web address, with access granted to view these reports, would be sufficient).

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose 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 audit 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 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.

Erin Barnes-Weaver is the Project Manager for this assignment and can be reached at (303) 312-6871 or [barnes-weaver.erin@epa.gov](mailto:barnes-weaver.erin@epa.gov). Please do not hesitate to contact her, or me at (303) 312-6969 or [gilbride.patrick@epa.gov](mailto:gilbride.patrick@epa.gov), if you or your staff have any questions.

cc: Stephen Schmitt, Director of Information Management and Data Quality Staff,  
Office of Land and Emergency Management  
Jim Woolford, Director, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation,  
Office of Land and Emergency Management  
John Bashista, Director, Office of Acquisition Management, Office of Administration and  
Resources Management  
Raoul Scott Jr., Director, Superfund/RCRA Regional Procurement Operations Division,  
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