



At a Glance

Why We Did This Review

In this follow-up review, we assessed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) actions to address Recommendations 1, 2 and 3 in Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report No. [13-P-0167](#), *Efficiency of EPA's Rule Development Process Can Be Better Measured Through Improved Management and Information*, issued February 28, 2013. The EPA Associate Administrator for the Office of Policy was the action official responsible for ensuring completion of corrective actions.

According to the EPA, it is one of the most active regulatory agencies in the federal government. The EPA uses the Action Development Process to prepare hundreds of regulatory actions a year. The EPA established the process to ensure the quality of its regulatory actions. According to the EPA, its environmental success and credibility is directly linked to the quality of this work.

This report addresses the following EPA goal or cross-agency strategy:

- *Embracing EPA as a high-performing organization.*

Send all inquiries to our public affairs office at (202) 566-2391 or visit www.epa.gov/oig.

Listing of [OIG reports](#).

Follow-Up Report: EPA Has Completed Actions to Improve Implementation of the Rulemaking Process

What We Found

The OIG's 2013 report addressed key aspects of Action Development Process implementation efficiency in EPA program offices. The 2013 report made three recommendations related to the Action Development Process, also known as "ADP." The EPA's system to track actions for this process is called ADP TRACKER. The recommendations were that the EPA:

- 1) Establish guidance that clarifies roles and responsibilities in ADP implementation, including data entry, record keeping, and the status of action development.
- 2) Ensure that ADP TRACKER has established clear roles, responsibilities, and requirements for the program offices to upload development documents; and that entries are updated in a timely manner, are monitored for data quality, and all features available are used to evaluate the efficiency of the rule development process.
- 3) Develop and implement a method to track resource use in key rulemaking activities.

We found that the EPA completed the corrective actions agreed to with the OIG. The Office of Policy developed and issued user guidance for the ADP TRACKER database. This ADP TRACKER user guidance should improve the clarity and implementation of the EPA's Action Development Process by EPA program offices. Consistent use of the ADP TRACKER database will assist EPA program offices in following and implementing the EPA's Action Development Process during the development and issuance of EPA rules.

The EPA's completion of Inspector General recommendations should improve the clarity and implementation of the EPA's regulatory actions.