



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 7

11201 Renner Boulevard
Lenexa, Kansas 66219

MAY 19 2016

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to the Office of Inspector General Audit Report No. 16-P-0108
Drinking Water: EPA Needs to Take Additional Steps to Ensure Small Community Water Systems Designated as Serious Violators Achieve Compliance, dated March 22, 2016

FROM: Mark Hague 

TO: Arthur A. Elkins
Inspector General

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the findings and recommendations in the subject audit report. Region 7 agrees with the OIG recommendation No. 4, and provides our high level corrective actions and estimated completion dates in the table below.

Region 7 would also like to note that in Kansas, from an initial list of 17 serious violators identified in October 2011, five had been returned to compliance by April 2015, as noted in Table 2 of the subject report. Of the 10 small drinking water systems in Kansas reviewed by the OIG, excluding the two purchasing systems, all have been addressed by either returning violations to compliance or issuing formal enforcement actions. We recognize that actions were not taken within the timeframe established by the Enforcement Response Policy, but note the actions did meet the goal of the Enforcement Response Policy of addressing priority non-compliant water systems. Finally, Region 7 would like to clarify that we recognize referrals from the state are not required for the EPA to take action. State referrals, however, may allow the EPA to expedite its action.

No.	Recommendation	High-Level Intended Corrective Action	Estimated Completion by Quarter and FY
4.	Comply with the ERP by (a) ensuring KDHE takes actions to return systems to compliance or issues a formal enforcement order within 6 months of becoming an enforcement priority, or (b) initiating formal enforcement actions in the absence of timely and appropriate	Region 7 agrees with the recommendation that the EPA should take timely formal enforcement actions when appropriate, in the absence of enforcement action by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Region 7 is already taking actions implementing the recommendation. Region 7 will continue to coordinate with our states	2 nd quarter FY 2016 – actions ongoing



	actions by KDHE.	to review the EPA's quarterly Enforcement Targeting Tool report and to establish timely strategies to address priority non-compliers. When drinking water systems have remained priority violators for at least 6 months, and states have not taken formal enforcement action, Region 7 will follow the Enforcement Response Policy.	
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Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact Kathy Finazzo, Region 7 Audit Follow-up Coordinator at (913) 551-7833.

cc: Ms. Kathlene Butler, Office of Inspector General