



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 3, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Audit of EPA Region 2's Oversight of Puerto Rico Assistance Agreements
Project No. OA-FY17-0001

FROM: Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General
Office of Audit

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin Christensen".

TO: Judith Enck, Regional Administrator
Region 2

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research of the EPA's oversight of Puerto Rico assistance agreements. This is an OIG-initiated project. Our overall objective is to determine whether the EPA established controls and processes for overseeing and managing Puerto Rico assistance agreements to protect human health and the environment.

The OIG plans to conduct its work at the EPA Region 2 offices, including the region's office in Puerto Rico. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are improved operational efficiency.

We anticipate starting our work in October 2016. 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 would also be particularly 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 updates on a regular basis through a monthly meeting via email, phone or video conference with your designated officials.

To ensure the success and timely completion of this project, please provide the following information via email to Kevin Haas, at haas.kevin@epa.gov, by October 12, 2016:

1. A comprehensive list of all Region 2 assistance agreements provided to Puerto Rico for the State Revolving Funds (SRFs). This should include a list of all non-SRF assistance agreements closed in fiscal year 2015, and a list of those agreements active during any portion of fiscal year 2016. Each list should include the grant number, recipient's name, project title, award amount, expended amount to date, purpose of the grant, and the period of performance.

2. Points of contact in the Puerto Rico government who manage the EPA's SRF and non-SRF assistance agreements.
3. Points of contact in EPA Region 2 who oversee SRF and non-SRF assistance agreements for Puerto Rico.
4. A list of EPA-designated high-risk grantees in Puerto Rico who have received assistance agreements as of the close of fiscal year 2016.

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.

Any information related to the project should be addressed to Mike Davis, Director, at (513) 487-2363 or davis.michaeld@epa.gov; or Gloria Taylor-Upshaw, Project Manager at (404) 562-9842 or taylor-upshaw.gloria@epa.gov.

cc: Catherine McCabe, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 2
Carmen Guerrero-Perez, Division Director, Caribbean Environmental Protection Division, Region 2
Jose Font, Deputy Division Director, Caribbean Environmental Protection Division, Region 2
Rudnell O'Neal, Acting Branch Chief, Grants and Management Branch, Region 2
Stephen Vida, Section Chief, State Revolving Fund Program Section, Region 2
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Frank Benenati, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
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