



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 3, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
EPA's WaterSense Program at 10 Years
Project No. OPE-FY17-0001

FROM: Kathlene Butler, Director, Water Issues /s/
Office of Program Evaluation

TO: Joel Beauvais, Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the EPA's WaterSense program. This project is included in the OIG's Annual Plan.

The OIG's objective is to examine whether the accomplishments reported by the EPA's WaterSense program reflect actual results. We will evaluate EPA controls to:

- Assess the accuracy of WaterSense product label claims of water and energy savings.
- Verify industry data used to estimate program accomplishments.
- Test the veracity of the WaterSense program's annual accomplishment estimates.

The OIG plans to conduct work at the EPA's Office of Wastewater Management, and with the agency's partners in the WaterSense program. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The possible benefits of this project include greater adoption of WaterSense products and practices, and improved reliability of program results and products.

We will contact your audit follow-up coordinator to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective 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. We can agree on the form and frequency of those updates at our first meeting.

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.

I will supervise the project, and the Project Manager will be Kathryn Hess. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (404) 562-9736 or butler.kathlene@epa.gov, or to Kathryn Hess at (617) 918-1487 or hess.kathryn@epa.gov.

cc: Michael Shapiro, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
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