



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 1, 2017

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Evaluation of Benefits and Use of Office of Research and Development's
Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research
Project No. OPE-FY17-0021

FROM: Patrick D. Gilbride, Director, Environmental Research Programs
Office of Program Evaluation /s/

TO: Robert J. Kavlock, Acting Assistant Administrator and EPA Science Advisor
Office of Research and Development

Mike Shapiro, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research to assess the benefits and use of the Office of Research and Development's (ORD) Safe and Sustainable Water Resources research. This project is included in our fiscal year 2017 Annual Plan.

The OIG's specific objective is to determine whether ORD's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources research program is delivering timely and relevant research data and tools to the Office of Water (OW) and whether OW uses those research results to accomplish the EPA's strategic goal of protecting America's water. The OIG expects to focus its work primarily on ORD and OW. During preliminary research, we plan to concentrate on research planned and conducted since 2012. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project.

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 as agreed upon at this 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 Erin Barnes-Weaver. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (303) 312-6969 or gilbride.pat@epa.gov, or Erin Barnes-Weaver at (303) 312-6871 or barnes-weaver.erin@epa.gov

cc: Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff
Henry Darwin, Chief of Staff for Operations
Kevin Chmielewski, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations
Dr. Bruce Rodan, Associate Director for Science, Office of Research and Development
Dr. Suzanne van Drunick, National Program Director, Office of Research and Development
Benita Best-Wong, Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
Benita Deane, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Liz Bowman, Acting Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Julia Valentine, Acting Director, Office of Media Relations, Office of Public Affairs
Beatriz Cuartas, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Research and Development
Steven Moore, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Water
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10
Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General
Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Edward Shields, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Management
Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General
Tia Elbaum, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General