



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 21, 2017

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Evaluation of EPA's Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Section 18
Emergency Exemptions
Project No. OPE-FY17-0024

FROM: Jeffrey Harris, Director
Toxics, Chemical Management, and Pollution Prevention
Office of Program Evaluation

TO: Wendy Cleland-Hamnett, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the emergency exemption process used by the EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention's Office of Pesticide Programs.

The OIG's objective is to determine whether the EPA has a comprehensive emergency exemption process that maintains environmental and human health safeguards within the Office of Pesticide Programs. During preliminary research, we plan to review the EPA's assessment, approval, implementation and oversight of emergency exemptions. The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters and any relevant EPA regions. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project include a greater understanding of the EPA's emergency exemption process, and the controls in place to protect environmental and human health.

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 via email and/or meetings with your designated point of contact.

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 me at (202) 566-0831 or harris.jeffrey@epa.gov; or Laretta Joseph, Project Manager, at (212) 637-3049 or joseph.lauretta@epa.gov.

cc: Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff
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Nancy Beck, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
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