



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

December 13, 2017

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
EPA's Preparedness and Response Efforts to the 2017 Hurricanes in  
EPA Regions 2, 4 and 6  
Project No. OPE-FY18-0005

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

**TO:** Peter Lopez, Regional Administrator  
Region 2

Trey Glenn, Regional Administrator  
Region 4

Samuel Coleman, Acting Regional Administrator  
Region 6

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the EPA's preparedness and response efforts to the 2017 hurricanes that impacted EPA Regions 2, 4 and 6. This project is a self-initiated assignment that also addresses one of the agency's management challenges: the EPA's oversight of states, territories and tribes.

The OIG's objective is to determine how the EPA's preparedness and response efforts during the three major hurricanes of 2017 (Harvey, Irma and Maria) protected human health and water resources from storm-related drinking water and surface water contamination. The OIG plans to conduct work within the EPA's Office of Water, Office of Land and Emergency Management, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, as well as EPA Regions 2, 4 and 6. We will also conduct work in relevant states and U.S. territories, and at drinking water and wastewater treatment utilities. We will use applicable generally accepted government auditing standards in conducting our project. The anticipated benefit of this project is to improve the EPA's ability to protect human health and the environment during the planning and response to future hurricanes.

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 are particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer your questions about the OIG evaluation process, methods used to gather and analyze data, reporting procedures, 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 to designated points of contact via monthly emails and/or meetings.

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 Tim Roach. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (404) 562-9736 or [butler.kathlene@epa.gov](mailto:butler.kathlene@epa.gov), or to Tim Roach at (312) 886-3026 or [roach.tim@epa.gov](mailto:roach.tim@epa.gov).

cc: Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff  
Henry Darwin, Chief of Staff for Operations  
Kevin Chmielewski, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations  
Michael Shapiro, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Water  
Barry Breen, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management  
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