



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 29, 2018

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Continuous Emissions Monitoring Data Quality for Large Stationary Sources of
Air Pollution
Project No. OA&E-FY18-0181

FROM: Jim Hatfield, Director, Air Directorate
Office of Audit and Evaluation

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for*

TO: Bill Wehrum, Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research to evaluate the data quality of emissions monitoring data from large stationary sources of air pollution. This project is based on the OIG's internal planning process.

The OIG's objective is to determine whether selected continuous emissions monitoring (CEM) data meet applicable quality assurance and quality control criteria. We plan to conduct work in the Office of Air and Radiation at EPA headquarters, and at selected EPA regions and/or states as needed. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are to improve any identified data quality weaknesses so that the EPA can better assess facility compliance and estimate air quality impacts based on facility-reported data.

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 the kickoff meeting.

To expedite our review, we request that you please provide us with the following before or at the kickoff meeting:

- Access to any EPA database(s) to which affected facilities report required CEM data, including quality assurance data, to the EPA. This includes data reported under the Acid Rain Program (ARP), Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP).

- Procedures, policies and guidance related to how the EPA verifies the quality of CEM data reported under the ARP and CSAPR, as well as other programs, such as NSPS and NESHAP regulations.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objectives. We will request that you resolve the situation 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 Erica Hauck. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (919) 541-1030 or hatfield.jim@epa.gov, or Erica Hauck at (303) 312-6629 or hauck.eric@epa.gov.

cc: Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff
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