



At a Glance

Why We Did This Project

We conducted this audit to determine whether the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Research and Development's (ORD's) Safe and Sustainable Water Resources (SSWR) research program is delivering timely and relevant research data and tools to the Office of Water (OW), and whether the OW uses those research results to protect America's waters.

The ORD is the scientific research arm of the EPA; the ORD's research helps provide the underpinning of science and technology for the agency. Within the ORD, there are six National Research Programs, one of which is the SSWR. The research programs are designed to meet the needs of EPA partner offices such as the OW.

This report addresses the following:

- *Improving EPA research programs.*
- *Ensuring clean and safe water.*

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EPA's Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program Is Delivering Timely and Relevant Data to the Office of Water

What We Found

ORD SSWR research products were generally delivered in a timely fashion. Based on our audit of ORD information, we found that 100 percent of SSWR research products were completed by the ORD's expected date during fiscal year 2016.

The ORD's SSWR research program delivers timely and relevant research to the OW that is used to protect America's waters.

In addition, the OW indicated that SSWR research products were relevant. We found that the OW and regional water divisions developed a cross-office research planning infrastructure that includes an OW Executive Committee for Research and an OW Research Coordination Team. The OW also released a National Water Program Research Strategy to identify and document research, science and technology needs that was updated in October 2015. According to OW office directors and members of the OW Research Coordination Team, the ORD conducts and provides relevant research for OW offices that meets OW needs. SSWR research products we looked at have been or will be used to protect America's waters.

We concluded that the ORD and OW have processes in place to plan and conduct timely and relevant research, and that research is used to support OW and regional efforts to protect America's waters. Therefore, we make no recommendations.