



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

September 4, 2018

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Landfill Emissions
Project No. OA&E-FY18-0273

FROM: James L. Hatfield, Director /s/
Air Directorate
Office of Audit and Evaluation

TO: William 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 determine whether active municipal solid waste landfills are operating under the appropriate air-quality permit. This project is based on the OIG's internal planning process.

To answer our objective, we plan to address the following questions:

- What federal laws and regulations govern municipal solid waste landfill air emissions?
- How many active municipal solid waste landfills are subject to federal air-permitting requirements?
- How many active municipal solid waste landfills subject to air-permitting requirements follow those requirements?
- What procedures or systems are in place to identify municipal solid waste landfills that are potentially subject to federal air permitting and emission requirements, but they have not obtained an appropriate air permit?

The OIG plans to conduct work at the EPA's Office of Air and Radiation, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, and at EPA regional offices. The OIG also plans to conduct work through a sample of state and local regulatory agencies with delegated authority to implement and enforce pertinent federal regulations. Although we are not assessing compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, we also may speak with staff in the EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management.

Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are to improve any identified weaknesses in state and local implementation, and to improve enforcement of federal air permitting and emissions

programs so that EPA can more effectively assure the protection of public health and the environment as new facilities are built and existing facilities expand and improve.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective 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 project. Throughout the project, we will provide updates on a regular basis as agreed upon at the kickoff meeting.

To the extent possible, please provide us with the following information before or at the kickoff meeting to help expedite our review:

- Identify the latest dates and versions of laws and regulations that apply to municipal solid waste landfills and landfill air emissions.
- Provide the implementation status of the *Municipal Solid Waste Landfill: New Source Performance Standards and Emission Guidelines*, and identify any pending regulatory changes.
- Provide the latest versions of policies, procedures and guidance available to state and local agencies related to the EPA's oversight of municipal solid waste landfill air permitting and emissions.

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 Hilda Canes Garduño. Information related to the project should be addressed to me at (919) 541-1030 or hatfield.jim@epa.gov, or Hilda Canes Garduño at (202) 566-2893 or canes-garduno.hilda@epa.gov.

cc: Henry Darwin, Acting Deputy Administrator
Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff
Michael Molina, Special Advisor, Office of the Administrator
Barry Breen, Acting Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management
Elizabeth Shaw, Career Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation
Peter Tsirigotis, Director, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards,
Office of Air Radiation
Barnes Johnson, Director, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery,
Office of Land and Emergency Management
Bob Trent, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Nancy Grantham, Principal Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
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