



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

NOV 27 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of Planned Corrective Actions for Office of Inspector General  
Report No. 17-P-0398, *Management Alert: EPA Should Promptly Reassess  
Community Risk Screening Tool*, Issued September 7, 2017

**FROM:** Charles J. Sheehan, Acting Inspector General *CJS*

**TO:** Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science  
and EPA Science Advisor  
Office of Research and Development

In response to your memorandum dated October 11, 2018, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) has reviewed your revised corrective actions concerning the recommendations in the subject report. We agree with the EPA's planned corrective actions and consider OIG Recommendations 1 and 3 resolved with corrective actions pending, and Recommendation 2 completed.

For Recommendation 1, we understand that after careful consideration the Office of Research and Development (ORD) will not retain the Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool (C-FERST) as a stand-alone tool. We also understand that ORD will move certain functional elements of C-FERST to existing ORD tools. For Recommendation 3, ORD has worked with the Office of Environmental Information and the Chief Information Officer to develop an agencywide policy that includes criteria to determine when a research tool will be subject to EPA information technology requirements. Once completed, we believe that these actions fully address the intent of both recommendations. The OIG appreciates ORD's efforts to review C-FERST.

For Recommendation 2, we understand that ORD recently instituted a review process that includes the newly proposed development of software applications. We further understand that ORD issued a policy document titled *Policies and Guidelines for Website and App Creation and Review Process, a Road Map for Software Applications*. In addition, ORD's Office of Science Information Management issued the *IT Application Flowchart, Roadmap, and Checklist Process* to guide software project managers and app developers in completing their application. We believe that these corrective actions address Recommendation 2, and we consider the corrective action completed.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation, at (202) 566-1007 or [christensen.kevin@epa.gov](mailto:christensen.kevin@epa.gov); or Patrick Gilbride, Director, Environmental Research Programs Directorate, at (303) 312-6969 or [gilbride.patrick@epa.gov](mailto:gilbride.patrick@epa.gov).

cc: Tim Watkins, Acting Director, National Exposure Research Laboratory, ORD  
Michael Slimak, Director, Sustainability and Healthy Communities Research Program, ORD  
Jerry Blancato, Director, Office of Science Information Management, ORD  
Stefan Silzer, Director, Office of Program Accountability and Resource Management, ORD  
Deborah Heckman, Deputy Director, Office of Program Accountability and Resource Management,  
ORD  
Maureen Hingeley, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, ORD  
Bob Trent, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator  
Michael Benton, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of the Administrator  
Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation  
Patrick Gilbride, Director, Environmental Research Programs Directorate, Office of Audit and  
Evaluation, OIG  
Erin Barnes-Weaver, Project Manager, Environmental Research Programs Directorate,  
Office of Audit and Evaluation, OIG