



At a Glance

Why We Did This Project

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) conducted this audit to determine whether the EPA is being fiscally responsible when awarding interagency agreements (IAs) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for Superfund work. We also sought to determine whether the EPA is meeting planned expectations for time, costs and outcomes in its use of USACE IAs.

The EPA's Superfund program is responsible for cleaning up some of the nation's most contaminated land and for responding to environmental emergencies, oil spills and natural disasters. The EPA accomplishes Superfund goals through a variety of mechanisms, including IAs. An IA is a written agreement between federal agencies that allows an agency needing supplies or services to obtain them from another agency. As of June 2018, the EPA had over \$3 billion in active Superfund IAs with the USACE.

This report addresses the following:

- *Operating efficiently and effectively.*

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[List of OIG reports.](#)

Corrective Actions and Additional Guidance Have Improved EPA's Fiscal Responsibility over Superfund Interagency Agreements

What We Found

We found that the EPA has enhanced its fiscal responsibility over the management of IAs with the USACE since we conducted a prior audit of USACE IAs in 2007. The agency implemented corrective actions in response to the recommendations in our 2007 report (Report No. [2007-P-00021](#), *EPA Can Improve Its Managing of Superfund Interagency Agreements with U.S. Corps of Engineers*, issued April 30, 2007). The EPA also issued additional guidance regarding the management of IAs. As a result, the agency has policies and procedures in place for awarding and managing IAs and is adequately documenting justifications for using USACE IAs for Superfund work.

The agency's corrective actions in response to the OIG's 2007 audit of Superfund IAs directly contributed to improved fiscal responsibility over USACE IAs.

In addition, the EPA has an effective system in place for monitoring IA projects in terms of time, cost and outcomes. Our audit sample of 20 Region 2 IAs found that the region has been meeting time, cost and outcome expectations when managing its USACE IAs. Region 2 and the EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management, which administers the agency's Superfund program, use the following tools to manage IAs with the USACE:

- Annual feedback surveys.
- Monthly progress reports and invoices.
- Bimonthly and weekly meetings and site visits.
- Integrated Grants Management System and project files.

We found that the agency is being fiscally responsible and adequately managing its USACE IAs for Superfund work. As a result, we make no new recommendations.