



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

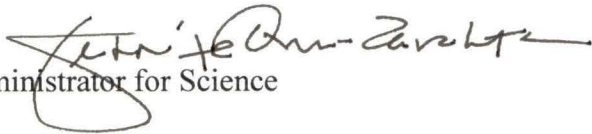
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OCT 28 2019

OFFICE OF  
RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Certification Memorandum for Office of Inspector General (OIG) Report No. 17- P0378, *Management Alert: EPA Should Promptly Reassess Community Risk Screening Tool*, Dated September 7, 2017

**FROM:** Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Ph.D.   
Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science

**TO:** David Bloom  
Acting Chief Financial Officer  
Office of Chief Financial Officer

The Office of Research and Development (ORD) certifies that all corrective actions specified in the Office of Inspector General (OIG) Final Report No. 17- P0378, *Management Alert: EPA Should Promptly Reassess Community Risk Screening Tool*, dated September 7, 2017 and ORD's updated corrective action plan dated October 11, 2018 have been completed. Attached are the completed corrective actions and corresponding milestone dates as outlined in Report No. 17- P0378 and ORD's updated corrective action plan dated October 11, 2018. All relevant documentation to support these actions is available in ORD's files.

Attachment

cc: Charles J. Sheehan, OIG  
Patrick Gilbride, OIG  
Erin Barnes-Weaver, OIG  
Eric Lewis, OIG  
Tim Watkins, ORD  
Jerry Blancato, ORD  
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## Attachment

In accordance with the OIG Final Report No. 17- P0378 dated September 7, 2017 and ORD's updated corrective action plan dated October 11, 2018, below are ORD's completed corrective actions in response to OIG report recommendations.

**OIG Recommendation #1:** Review the Community-Focused Exposure and Risk Screening Tool and develop an action plan with timeframes to address issues identified, including considerations on whether to retain the tool. If retained, (a) develop metrics for measuring the tool's performance and establish a regular schedule for performance evaluations, and (b) survey users to obtain feedback on tool utilization and any needed improvements.

**ORD Response:** ORD agreed with this recommendation. ORD no longer retains C-FERST. ORD completed activities to identify unique aspects of C-FERST that have been incorporated into other EPA tools. The remaining pages of the C-FERST website and the tool itself have been archived.

**Completion Date:** August 27, 2019

**OIG Recommendation #2:** Develop policies and procedures for planning, developing, implementing and monitoring the performance of web-based research tools. Policies and procedures could build on the draft guidance for web-based tools developed by the National Exposure Research Laboratory and should ensure that any new ORD research tool stems from a clear project proposal that includes ongoing monitoring metrics and outcome measures and vetting to ensure there is a need and no overlap with other tools.

**ORD Response:** ORD agreed with this recommendation. ORD's Senior Information Official instituted a required review via memorandum regarding the proposed development of software applications, which determines if the proposed application requires Agency-wide review and coordination. These reviews are conducted by following ORD's published policies governing website and app creation. In addition, support documents were made available for project managers and app developers to complete their application. ORD regularly meets with each center and office to review application development, infrastructure needs and approaches, including public facing applications for cost, expected future costs, value to customers, redundancy (within ORD and across the Agency), and obsolescence. These reviews combined with the application review and approval process cited above effectively enable ORD to identify and govern application development, maintenance, and retirement.

**Completion Date:** September 11, 2018

**OIG Recommendation #3:** Review new and existing ORD research tools to determine the applicability of the agency's information technology requirements.

**ORD Response:** ORD agreed with this recommendation and worked with OMS and the Chief Information Officer (CIO) to develop criteria to determine when a research tool should be subject to the Agency's information technology requirements. ORD worked closely with OMS in the development and implementation of the Agency policy and process calling for application review and approval. The CIO signed the *US EPA GeoPlatform* policy on March 26, 2018 and implementation is forthcoming.

**Completion Date:** August 1, 2019

**OIG Recommendation #4:** Work with agency offices responsible for other geospatial mapping tools to develop a decision support matrix for when to use certain tools and for what purposes.

**ORD Response:** ORD agreed with this recommendation and worked with other EPA offices – primarily OMS/EI – on the cross-agency effort to develop the *EPA 4-Tool Comparison Chart* decision matrix. Additionally, the CIO, in collaboration with the OA, issued the March 26, 2018 *US EPA GeoPlatform* memorandum emphasizing the use of the GeoPlatform for publication of new geospatial tools and to work within the GeoPlatform governance to consult on taking advantage of existing GeoPlatform services wherever possible.

**Completion Date:** September 30, 2019