




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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 23, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Notification of Audit:  
Post-Closure Care at Hazardous Waste Units Closed with Waste in Place  
Project No. OA&E-FY19-0323

**FROM:** Tina Lovingood, Director   
Land Cleanup and Waste Management Directorate  
Office of Audit and Evaluation

**TO:** Peter Wright, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Land and Emergency Management

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to begin fieldwork to evaluate the EPA's oversight of hazardous waste units closed with waste in place. This project is self-initiated.

Our objective is to evaluate whether the EPA's oversight of hazardous waste units closed with waste in place verifies continued protection of human health and the environment.<sup>1</sup> The OIG plans to conduct work at the Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery, within the Office of Land and Emergency Management, and at selected EPA regions and states. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our audit.<sup>2</sup> The anticipated benefits of this audit are (1) the assurance of continued protection of the public from exposure to hazardous substances and (2) the identification of potential unfunded public liabilities so that the EPA can appropriately plan for future resource requirements and share these with the public.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your questions about the audit process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the audit. Throughout the audit, we will provide updates on a regular basis.

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 materials to the OIG

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<sup>1</sup> The original notification memorandum was dated August 20, 2019. This sentence has been modified slightly to clarify that "verifies" refers to EPA responsibilities. The original sentence was "Our objective is to evaluate the EPA's oversight of hazardous waste units closed with waste in place to verify continued protection of human health and the environment."

<sup>2</sup> The memorandum has been updated to include this sentence to clarify the auditing standards used.

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 Steve Hanna. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (202) 566-2906 or [lovingood.tina@epa.gov](mailto:lovingood.tina@epa.gov), or Steve Hanna at (415) 947-4527 or [hanna.steve@epa.gov](mailto:hanna.steve@epa.gov).

cc: Henry Darwin, Assistant Deputy Administrator  
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Mandy Gunasekara, Chief of Staff  
Michael Molina, Deputy Chief of Staff/Operations  
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Susan Parker Bodine, Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
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