



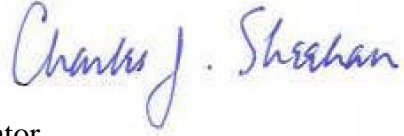
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

May 7, 2020

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Notification:  
Research for Future Audits and Evaluations Regarding Effects of Coronavirus Pandemic (SARS-CoV-2 Virus and COVID-19 Disease) on EPA Programs and Operations  
Project No. OA&E-FY20-0212

**FROM:** Charles J. Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General 

**TO:** Doug Benevento, Associate Deputy Administrator

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is initiating a project to research and identify topics for potential audits and evaluations related to the EPA's response to the coronavirus pandemic—that is, the SARS-CoV-2 virus and resultant COVID-19 disease. We plan to examine the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the EPA's programs and operations, regulatory and enforcement missions, and mandated activities, as well as to review measures that the EPA has taken to address the coronavirus pandemic. We will also assess how, in the face of these impacts, the EPA has conducted and is conducting its oversight and programmatic responsibilities to protect public health and the environment. This research will include data gathering and inquiries into areas such as personnel management, Agency programs and operations, regulatory and enforcement missions, human capital, financial management, and information technology operations and security.

We may contact officials and managers within the Office of the Administrator and across the EPA's other offices, programs, regions, laboratories, and work locations regarding these and related issues. We may solicit their views on issues related to the coronavirus pandemic that could warrant future audit or evaluation coverage. We will also consider suggestions for related research, audits, and evaluations.

As we begin this research, we will contact you to discuss our plans and any related areas of concern that you may have.

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 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*.

If you have questions regarding this work, you may contact me at (202) 566-0394 or Kathlene Butler, acting assistant inspector general for Audit and Evaluation, at [butler.kathlene@epa.gov](mailto:butler.kathlene@epa.gov) or (404) 562-9736.

cc: Henry Darwin, Assistant Deputy Administrator  
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Michael Molina, Deputy Chief of Staff/Operations  
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