



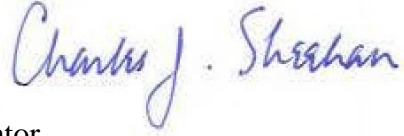
UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

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 or (404) 562-9736.

cc: Henry Darwin, Assistant Deputy Administrator
Mandy Gunasekara, Chief of Staff
Michael Molina, Deputy Chief of Staff/Operations
Wesley J. Carpenter, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
Andrew LeBlanc, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Corry Schiermeyer, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Lance McCluney, Director, Office of Administrative and Executive Services, Office of the
Administrator
Regional Administrators, Regions 1–10
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10
Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General
Edward S. Shields, Associate Deputy Inspector General
Eric W. Hanger, Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General
Kathlene Butler, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Helina P. Wong, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Stephanie L. Wright, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Management
Richard Eyermann, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Rashmi Bartlett, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General
Tia Elbaum, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General