



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

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 19, 2020

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Planned Corrective Actions for Office of Inspector General
Report No. 20-P-0167, *EPA Complied with Improper Payments Legislation, but Internal Controls Need Substantial Improvement to Ensure More Accurate Reporting*,
issued May 13, 2020

FROM: Sean W. O'Donnell

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean W O'Donnell".

TO: David A. Bloom, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

Thank you for your memorandum of June 26, 2020, which outlines the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's planned corrective actions and estimated milestone date for the unresolved recommendation in the subject Office of Inspector General report. However, we do not agree that the Agency's planned corrective actions fully address the recommendation.

While the EPA provided information on training and updated review procedures, there was no planned corrective action that would annually verify that reviewers are knowledgeable and proficient in the identification and reporting of improper payments. This element was a key part of our recommendation.

As a result, we consider the recommendation issued in the subject report unresolved. The Agency should follow the dispute resolution process defined in EPA Manual 2750. We will reassess the EPA's progress in implementing our recommendation during our fiscal year 2020 improper payments audit.

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Rashmi Bartlett, acting assistant inspector general for Audit, at (202) 566-1363 or bartlett.rekha@epa.gov, or Khadija E. Walker, director of Contracts and Assistance Agreements, at (312) 886-3106 or walker.khadija@epa.gov.

cc: Andrew LeBlanc, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of the Chief Financial Officer
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