



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

September 19, 2014

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Evaluation of EPA's Use of Other Federal Agencies, Universities and Foundations
for Research
Project No. OPE-FY14-0048

FROM: Patrick Gilbride, Director /s/
Science, Research and Management Integrity Evaluations

TO: Lek Kadeli, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Research and Development

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) plans to begin preliminary research on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) use of other federal agencies, universities and foundations for agency research in the Office of Research and Development (ORD) on October 14, 2014. We are initiating this review based on our 2014 annual project planning.

The OIG's objectives are to:

- Determine the extent to which the EPA uses external sources—such as other federal agencies, universities and foundations—for agency research.
- Identify internal controls that could enhance or support the EPA's use of external sources to meet program objectives.

The OIG plans to conduct work at ORD offices and centers in the Washington, D.C., area. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are improved decision making and increased efficiency in leveraging the research of others.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your questions about the project process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the course of the project. Throughout the project, we will provide updates on a regular basis every 4 to 5 weeks by phone with you or the officials you designate to receive the updates.

To ensure the success and timely completion of this project, please provide the following information by October 8, 2014:

1. Points of contact from each of the six ORD national research programs.
2. The review of ORD's national programs' research portfolios, the Extramural Package Review, and the Government Performance and Results Act performance measures review (all mentioned in the fiscal year 2013 ORD Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act assurance letter on pages 5, 7 and 8).
3. Any 2014 updates of the documents or reports listed in #2 above.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978 to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objectives. We will request your resolution if an agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested records 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.

The project will be supervised by Patrick Gilbride, Director of Science, Research and Management Integrity. The Project Manager will be Randy Holthaus. Any information related to the project should be addressed to Patrick Gilbride at (303) 312-6969 or gilbride.patrick@epa.gov, or Randy Holthaus at (214) 665-6520 or holthaus.randy@epa.gov.

cc: Dr. Robert Kavlock, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, ORD
Amy Battaglia, Director, Office of Program Accountability and Resource Management, ORD
Kim Hyon, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, ORD
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