



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

June 2, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Audit of EPA's Eliminated Programs
Project No. OA-FY16-0181

FROM: Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General
Office of Audit

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Kevin Christensen", is placed to the right of the "FROM:" line.

TO: A. Stanley Meiburg, Acting Deputy Administrator

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research of the EPA's eliminated programs identified in the agency's 2015 and 2016 budget submissions for congressional justification as well as plans for future years. This is an OIG-initiated project. Our overall objective is to review the EPA's oversight of its eliminated programs and determine whether eliminated programs resulted in benefits to the agency. Specifically, we plan to:

- Review how the agency determines which programs to eliminate.
- Determine whether the agency has effective oversight of the process for eliminating programs.
- Review eliminated programs to determine whether the agency achieved a benefit, such as realized savings in budgeted and future years or environmental impact.

The OIG plans to conduct its work at EPA headquarters and selected program offices. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are improved operational efficiency.

We anticipate starting our work in June 2016. 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 through a monthly meeting, via email, phone or video conference, with your designated officials.

To ensure the success and timely completion of this project, please provide the following information to Gloria Taylor-Upshaw, the Project Manager, prior to the initial meeting:

1. The agency policies and procedures used to eliminate programs.

2. An explanation or definition of an eliminated program.
3. A list of the fiscal year 2015 programs eliminated and related cost savings.
4. The points of contact for programs eliminated in fiscal year 2015 or planned for elimination in fiscal year 2016.

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.

Any information related to the project should be addressed to Mike Davis, Director, at (513) 487-2363 or davis.michaeld@epa.gov; or Gloria Taylor-Upshaw, Project Manager at (404) 562-9842 or taylor-upshaw.gloria@epa.gov.

cc: David Bloom, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Office of the Chief Financial Officer
Donna Vizian, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Administration and
Resources Management
Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation
Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Ann Dunkin, Chief Information Officer, Office of Environmental Information
Avi Garbow, General Counsel, Office of General Counsel
Jane Nishida, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of International and Tribal Affairs
Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management
Dr. Thomas Burke, Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA Science Advisor, Office of Research
and Development
Joel Beauvais, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
Nic Grzegozewski, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Melissa Harrison, Press Secretary, Office of Public Affairs
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Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10