



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 15, 2019

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Audit of Costs Claimed Under Tribal Grants
Project No. OA&E-FY19-0314

FROM: Michael D. Davis, Director, Efficiency Directorate *Michael D Davis*
Office of Audit and Evaluation

TO: W.C. McIntosh, Assistant Administrator
Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Denise Polk, Director, Office of Grants and Debarment
Office of Mission Support

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on an audit of tribal grants. This project is included in our 2019 annual plan and contributes to the improvement of the EPA's business practices and accountability.

The OIG's objective is to determine whether the costs claimed under selected individual Indian tribal grants are reasonable, allocable and allowable in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and grant terms and conditions. The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters and selected regional locations. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are to improve operational efficiency and reduce costs.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective and the purpose 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 to your designated point of contact.

Prior to our initial meeting, please provide the following information to Heather Layne, Project Manager, at layne.heather@epa.gov; and Cara Lindsey, Auditor, at lindsey.cara@epa.gov:

1. Designated points of contact at the Office of Grants and Debarment and the Office of International and Tribal Affairs at EPA headquarters, as well as regional locations responsible for the management of tribal grants.
2. Policies, procedures and guidance related to the management of the tribal grants, including documentation that outlines the roles and responsibilities of staff in the Office of Grants and Debarment and the Office of International and Tribal Affairs in EPA headquarters, as well as regional locations, that are responsible for the management of tribal grants.

3. Copies of internal reviews of tribal grants performed in fiscal years 2017 and 2018, as well as any issued in 2019.
4. Universe of all active and current tribal grants.
5. Universe of all high-risk level grantees in each region.

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 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 me and the Project Manager will be Heather Layne. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (513) 487-2363 or davis.michaeld@epa.gov, or Heather Layne at (617) 918-1486 or layne.heather@epa.gov.

cc: Henry Darwin, Acting Deputy Administrator
Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff
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Holly Greaves, Agency Follow-Up Official
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Donna Vizian, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Mission Support
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Jane Nishida, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for International and Tribal Affairs
W. Scott Mason IV, Director, American Indian Environmental Office, Office of International and Tribal Affairs
Khanna Johnston, Acting Director, Office of Regional Operations
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