



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 28, 2020

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Evaluation:
Practices for Identifying Potential Information Technology Vulnerabilities that Could
Compromise EPA Systems and Data
Project No. OA&E-FY20-0111

FROM: Rudolph M. Brevard, Director *Rudolph M. Brevard*
Information Resources Management Directorate
Office of Audit and Evaluation

TO: Donna Vizian, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Mission Support

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin an evaluation. This evaluation is a discretionary, self-initiated project.

The OIG's objectives are to (1) evaluate the completeness of EPA processes for testing its network to identify potential vulnerabilities that could compromise the agency's systems and data, and (2) conduct independent automated vulnerability testing of information technology resources connected to the EPA's network to identify vulnerabilities that could be used to compromise the confidentiality, integrity and availability of agency information systems and data. We will perform our evaluation at EPA headquarters and regional offices as determined relevant to achieving our objectives. The evaluation will be conducted using *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. The anticipated benefit of this evaluation is improved security of the EPA's networks, information systems and data.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives. We would also be interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your questions about the evaluation process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the evaluation. We intend to work with agency personnel to coordinate the timing of the use of the network scanning tool so that minimal impact is caused to network performance. Agency representatives are welcome to observe our use of the network scanning tool. Throughout the evaluation, we will provide updates on a regular basis.

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*.

I will supervise the evaluation, and the Project Manager will be Albert Schmidt. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (202) 566-0893 or brevard.rudy@epa.gov, or Albert Schmidt at (202) 566-0363 or schmidt.albert@epa.gov.

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