MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Follow-Up to Office of Inspector General Management Alert: Report No. 17-P-0378, "EPA Should Promptly Reassess Community Risk Screening Tool," dated September 7, 2017

FROM: Kevin DeBell   11/4/2024
                  Acting Deputy Chief of Staff

TO: Patrick Gilbride, Director, Environmental Research Programs
                  Office of Program Evaluation
                  Office of Inspector General

Thank you for the opportunity to respond and correct the issue addressed to the Office of the Administrator in the subject audit report. As we mentioned in our initial response to the draft report. We agree that EPA's web-based risk screening and mapping tools should be developed to meet the targets users' needs and, where possible, build on existing tools to avoid duplication and reduce waste. We also stated we would have OEI and the Chief Information Officer review existing policies and procedures to ensure that sufficient mechanisms are in place to identify potential overlap or duplication during the development or modification of any web-based risk screening and mapping tools.

We believe EPA's new Application Review Process will minimize the potential for overlap or duplication during the development or modification of any web-based risk screening and mapping tool. EPA's Application Review Process is an early screen to review new application ideas at the concept stage before development begins. The purpose of the screen is to avoid duplication of applications within EPA, increase the use of shared services and application reuse, promote collaboration, and ensure that Senior Information Officials (SIOs) know about future funding requirements. The process relies on the review and engagement of Senior Information Technical Leaders (SITLS) from across the agency. The process is based on the Interim Application Review Policy (https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-05/documents/interim_application_review_policy_final_e-signature.pdf).

The process has the following basic steps:

1. Developers submit an idea for an application.
2. If the SITL for the organization approves the concept, a notification is sent to the other SITLs asking them to review the application concept.
3. The other SITLs can approve or ask for discussion.
4. If all SITLs approve (either immediately or after discussion) the application is sent to the relevant organization's SIO for final approval.
5. If the SITLs cannot agree on the concept it is elevated to the CIO for further discussion and decision.

Once again, we thank the OIG for bringing this issue to our attention and the opportunity to correct it. If you have questions about this response, please contact me or AO's Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Michael Benton.

cc: Erin Barnes-Weaver, OIG
        Vaughn Noga, OMS
        Lance McCluney, OAES
        Annette Morant, OCFO