



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

OFFICE OF WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to the Office of Inspector General Final Audit Report, Project No. OPE-FY17-0020 - "Drinking Water: EPA Must Improve Public Notice Oversight to Better Project Human Health" dated September 25, 2019

FROM: David P. Ross
Assistant Administrator

**DAVID
ROSS**

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Date: 2020.10.26
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TO: Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General
Office of Inspector General

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the issues and recommendations in the subject final audit report. The following is a summary of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA or Agency) overall position, along with its position on each of the report recommendations. We have provided high-level corrective actions and estimated completion dates.

AGENCY'S OVERALL POSITION

The Agency concurs with the Office of Inspector General's recommendations specified below.

AGENCY'S RESPONSE TO AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS

Agreements

No.	Recommendation	Assigned To:	Corrective Action(s)	Estimated Completion Date
1	Require EPA regional administrators to comply with public notice requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and the public notice	OW	1.1 To communicate the requirement of compliance, the Office of Water at EPA will issue an implementation memorandum to the regional Water Division Directors as a reminder of their roles and responsibilities for implementation of the PN Rule.	Completed on September 16, 2020

	regulations where the EPA directly implements the act.	OW	1.2 To reinforce the required compliance, the Office of Water at EPA will provide training(s) targeted for regional and primacy agency staff. The goal of the training will be to provide an overview of PN requirements and share tools and resources.	March 31, 2021
2	Require EPA regional administrators to verify that primacy agencies within their region fully implement their oversight of public notice responsibilities.	OW	2.1 To communicate the requirement of compliance, the Office of Water at EPA will issue an implementation memorandum to the regional Water Division Directors as a reminder of their roles and responsibilities for implementation of the PN Rule. This memorandum will clarify the regions' oversight role of primacy agencies for implementing the PN Rule.	Completed on September 16, 2020
		OW	2.2 To reinforce the required compliance, the Office of Water at EPA will provide training(s) targeted for regional and primacy agency staff. The goal of the training will be to provide an overview of PN requirements and share tools and resources.	March 31, 2021
8	Direct EPA regions to require primacy agencies to adhere to requirements for the accurate quarterly entry of public notice violation data into the Safe Drinking Water Information System.	OW	8.1 The Office of Water at EPA will include PN data entry requirements for SDWIS in the memorandum identified in Corrective Action 1.1 and 2.1.	Completed on September 16, 2020
		OW	8.2 Following the memo, the Office of Water at EPA will provide training(s) targeted for regional and primacy agency staff.	March 31, 2021

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have any questions regarding this response, please contact the Office of Water's Audit Follow-up Coordinator, Tiffany Crawford, at Crawford.Tiffany@epa.gov or (202) 566-2375.

cc: Doug Benevento, Associate Deputy Administrator
Wesley J. Carpenter, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff
OCFO: Nikki Newton, Andrew LeBlanc
OIG: Charles J. Sheehan, Kathlene Butler