



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

September 22, 2020

OFFICE OF
LAND AND EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: EPA Can Improve Incident Readiness with Better Management of Homeland Security and Emergency Response Equipment (20-P-0066)

FROM: Peter C. Wright
Assistant Administrator

Wright, Peter

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Peter
Date: 2020.09.22
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TO: Sean O'Donnell, Inspector General
Office of Inspector General

Thank you for your memo dated August 17, 2020, which accepted corrective action plans for four of the five recommendations issued in the Office of Inspector General (OIG) report *EPA Can Improve Incident Readiness with Better Management of Homeland Security and Emergency Response Equipment* (20-P-0066).

Your office did not approve the December 2015 release of the Agency Asset Management System (AAMS) as an appropriate action to address recommendation 2 – Maintain one official, required agencywide management and tracking system for homeland security and emergency response equipment that provides for the status, availability and acquisition costs of all equipment. As a result, this recommendation remains unresolved.

To address the Recommendation 2, over the course of the next 30 days, the Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) will reissue the May 2018 policy memorandum to the Regions via the Deputy Regional Administrators, Superfund Division Directors, Removal Managers and Branch Chiefs and Special Teams managers. We will reiterate the requirement that AAMS usage is mandatory. Likewise, the OLEM AAMS Task Force will schedule a meeting with the AAMS system managers to review our proposed changes to the system, which are listed below, to ensure the asset tracking system will meet the overall needs of the Emergency Response and Removal Program.

For your background, OLEM established an AAMS Task Force in Summer 2019 with representatives from all ten Regions and Special Teams. The purpose of the AAMS Task Force was to receive direct training from the AAMS system managers, use the tool for several months in their respective warehouses and then provide a report outlining their feedback. In December 2019, OLEM hosted training for the AAMS Task Force in Washington, D.C. and as a result of the training and real-world experience using the system, the OLEM AAMS Task Force shared the following requested enhancements with the Office of Mission Support and the AAMS system management last month:

- Allow real time check-in and check-out of Emergency Response and Removal Program equipment using bar code scanners
- Tracking and accountability of change of custody of equipment during routine and large-scale incidents
- Performing routine maintenance, readiness checks, and calibration
- Managing scheduled and unscheduled manufacturer maintenance
- Asset management functions for equipment through its lifecycle from acquisition to disposal
- Maintaining records on acquisition and maintenance history
- Inventory
- Shipping of equipment to sites and other regional warehouse facilities
- Monitoring stocking levels of consumables/expendables (PPE, etc)
- Ordering parts
- Reservations for planned site work
- Reporting of equipment status and utilization
- Vehicle/trailer fleet management and reservations

As indicated, the Agency will use AAMS as the Agency's one official, agency-wide tracking system for Emergency Response and Removal Program equipment. OLEM's Office of Emergency Management has identified funding to help address AAMS functionality shortfalls if additional modules or custom programming is required as a result of the ongoing discussions between the OLEM AAMS Task Force and AAMS system managers.

Thank you for considering the OLEM input related to recommendation 2 of the subject OIG audit. If you have any questions regarding this response or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss further, please have your staff contact Kecia Thornton, OLEM Audit Liaison, at (202) 566-1913.

cc: Barry Breen
 Steven Cook
 Michael D. Davis, OIG
 Gloria Taylor-Upshaw, OIG
 Reggie Cheatham