



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 4, 2021

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Audit Cancellation:  
Office of Air and Radiation's National Center for Radiation Field Operations  
Preparedness  
Project No. OA&E-FY20-0037

**FROM:** John Trefry, Director  
Forensic Audits  
Office of Audit

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Trefry", is placed over the "FROM:" line.

**TO:** Joseph Goffman, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Air and Radiation

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is canceling the subject audit. The objective of this audit was to determine whether the National Center for Radiation Field Operations has the capability to perform its current roles and responsibilities in preparing for and responding to radiological emergencies.

As stated in our notification memorandum, dated February 19, 2020, we planned to conduct our work at the NCRFO office in Las Vegas, Nevada. During our entrance conference on March 5, 2020, we estimated that our first site visit to NCRFO would take place in late March or early April. Because of the restrictions in place due to the coronavirus pandemic, we were unable to make a site visit as planned. As a result, we focused our attention on audit work that could be performed remotely. Specifically, we interviewed NCRFO management and reviewed documentation provided by NCRFO pertaining to staffing, budget, equipment inventory, and projects and activities. To fully address our objectives, however, we need to visit the NCRFO to conduct equipment inventory, review equipment usage and maintenance logs, conduct a walkthrough of training processes and systems, review staff training records, and conduct staff interviews.

On September 20, 2020, we notified the NCRFO director that due to the ongoing restrictions imposed due to the pandemic, we are not able to conduct the on-site work needed to complete the audit. Given the continuing pandemic situation, we do not anticipate a site visit for some time. As such, the OIG is cancelling this audit.

We plan to resume an audit of the NCRFO's capabilities once the pandemic is over and our staff can conduct the necessary fieldwork. Based on the work conducted, the areas we plan to explore more in depth include:

- Current staffing levels and workload.
- Equipment usage and maintenance.
- Staff training and qualifications, as well as individual assignments.
- Project activities including emergency response, training exercises, regional projects, training demonstrations to partners, and radiation source program training exercises.

When we are ready to resume this audit, we will reassess our objectives based on the work conducted to date and will issue a new project notification memorandum.

The preliminary research we conducted for this audit did not constitute an audit in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards, and no report will be issued to the EPA.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at [www.epa.gov/oig](http://www.epa.gov/oig).

cc: Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator  
 Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator  
 Avi Garbow, Special Advisor to the Administrator  
 Betsy Shaw, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation  
 Jonathan Edwards, Director, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, Office of Air and Radiation  
 Edward Wilds, Director, National Center for Radiation Field Operations, Office of Air and Radiation  
 John Griggs, Director, National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory, Office of Air and Radiation  
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