



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 23, 2021

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Evaluation:
EPA's Oversight of Title V Fees
Project No. OE-FY21-0156

FROM: Renee McGhee-Lenart, Acting Director
Air Directorate
Office of Evaluation *Renee D. McGhee-Lenart*

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

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to begin fieldwork on the subject evaluation regarding the EPA's efforts to ensure the sufficient and appropriate use of Title V fee revenues. This evaluation is a follow-up to OIG Report No. [15-P-0006](#), *Enhanced EPA Oversight Needed to Address Risks From Declining Clean Air Act Title V Revenues Report*, issued October 20, 2014. This evaluation also addresses the following top management challenges for the Agency, as identified in OIG Report No. [20-N-0231](#), *EPA's FYs 2020–2021 Top Management Challenges*, issued July 21, 2020: overseeing states implementing EPA programs and complying with key internal control requirements (policies and procedures).

The OIG's objective is to determine the extent to which the EPA has conducted evaluations of state and local Title V programs and identified insufficient collection of fees or misuse of fees, in accordance with two guidance documents published in 2018: *Updated Guidance on EPA Review of Fee Schedules for Operating Permit Programs Under Title V* and *Program and Fee Evaluation Strategy and Guidance for 40 CFR Part 70*. The OIG plans to conduct work within the Office of Air and Radiation's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, as well as within selected regions. 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 benefits of this evaluation include improving EPA regional oversight of Title V fee structures to ensure successful implementation of Title V programs at the state and local level.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives. We would also be particularly 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. Throughout the evaluation, we will provide updates on a regular basis.

To expedite our evaluation, please be ready to provide the following information at the entrance conference:

- Any documents that evaluate the sufficiency of fee revenues for state and local Title V permitting programs, other than the Title V program evaluations that are posted on the EPA's regional websites.
- Any other internal or external guidance documents related to Title V fees, other than the *Updated Guidance on EPA Review of Fee Schedules for Operating Permit Programs Under Title V* and the *Program and Fee Evaluation Strategy and Guidance for 40 CFR Part 70*.

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 immediately 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*.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at 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
Elizabeth Shaw, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation
Tomás Elias Carbonell, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Stationary Sources, Office of Air and Radiation
Andrew LeBlanc, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
José Kercado, Backup Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Lindsay Hamilton, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Lance McCluney, Director, Office of Administrative and Executive Services, Office of the Administrator
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