




OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

August 24, 2023

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Evaluation:
EPA Office of Water's Guidance to State Revolving Fund Programs for Implementing
Build America, Buy America Act Requirements
Project No. OSRE-FY23-0096

FROM: Lindsay Clarke Brubaker, Director 
Environmental Infrastructure Oversight Directorate
Office of Special Review and Evaluation

TO: Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an evaluation of the EPA Office of Water's guidance to the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, or SRF, programs for the implementation of Build America, Buy America Act requirements. This evaluation is part of the OIG's [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Oversight Plan](#). This evaluation also addresses the following fiscal year 2023 [top management challenge](#) for the Agency: managing increased investment in infrastructure.

Our objective for this evaluation is to determine the sufficiency of the Office of Water's guidance to the SRF programs for the implementation of Build America, Buy America Act requirements. We plan to conduct work within the Office of Water, select regions, select SRF programs, and the Office of Mission Support. We will conduct the evaluation 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 improved guidance on the Build America, Buy America Act requirements, which will also result in more effective and efficient management of increased funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective. At that time, we can discuss any concerns that you may have and answer any 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.

We respectfully note that the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, authorizes the OIG to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete our objectives. Similarly, EPA Manual 6500, *Functions and Activities of the Office of Inspector General* (1994), requires that each EPA employee cooperate with and fully disclose information to the OIG. Also, Administrator Michael S. Regan, in a

May 16, 2023 email to EPA employees, stated that the “agency and its employees have a duty to cooperate with OIG” and observed that “full engagement and collaboration between the OIG and EPA provides our agency with the opportunity to improve program performance and efficiency.” If an Agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested materials to the OIG or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG, we will request that you immediately resolve the situation. Consistent with the Inspector General Act, we may report unresolved access matters to the administrator and to Congress.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epa.gov/oig. Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this evaluation should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

cc: Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator

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