




OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

November 8, 2023

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Planned Corrective Actions for Office of Inspector General Report No. [23-E-0023](#), *The EPA Should Update Its Strategy, Goals, Deadlines, and Accountability Framework to Better Lead Chesapeake Bay Restoration Efforts*, issued July 18, 2023

FROM: Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General 

TO: Adam Ortiz, Regional Administrator
EPA Region 3

Thank you for your September 15, 2023 memorandum, which outlines the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's planned corrective actions and estimated completion dates for the two unresolved recommendations, Recommendations 1 and 3, for the subject Office of Inspector General report. The one recommendation was previously resolved. Based on the information and supporting documentation provided, we agree that the planned corrective actions meet the intent of Recommendations 1 and 3.

Region 3 committed to making motions to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Management Board before the end of the 2024 calendar year that the partnership develop a strategy to address nonpoint sources of pollution in the Chesapeake Bay watershed and additional accountability measures for nonpoint source reductions beyond the existing Accountability Framework and other public accountability tools. Region 3 committed to completing both actions by December 31, 2024. We note that making these motions meets the "lead" aspect of our recommendations. The timing is such that the Agency can bring these issues to the table at the next program partnership meeting. These corrective actions also clearly address both the nonpoint sources and Accountability Framework aspects of our recommendations. Additionally, after reviewing your technical comments and official draft comments provided on May 15, 2023 again, we disagree with the assertion that we included inaccuracies in our final report.

All recommendations for the subject report are now considered resolved. You should track implementation of the corrective actions in the Agency's audit tracking system until all actions are completed.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epaoig.gov.

cc: Susan Perkins, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
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