

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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EPA Office of Inspector General issues Fiscal Year 2024 Oversight Plan along with Investigative Priorities

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General today issued its <u>Fiscal Year 2024 Oversight Plan</u> and a report detailing its <u>Investigative</u> <u>Priorities</u>. Together these two reports outline the OIG's plan to prevent and detect fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct in the EPA and U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board for fiscal year 2024. With the release of these documents, the OIG is kicking off a new campaign for oversight and has dubbed 2024 as the Year of Fighting Fraud.

The Oversight Plan reflects mandatory and discretionary work outlining 71 EPA and five CSB planned and ongoing projects. The Investigative Priorities report describes four primary areas of interest for investigative efforts. Both reports use the seven EPA top management challenges and four CSB top management challenges as a guide for oversight and investigative work.

"Partnering this year's oversight plan with a set of robust and focused investigative priorities sets the stage for the EPA OIG to be the premier fraud-fighting organization in the environmental space," said Inspector General Sean W. O'Donnell.

For fiscal year 2024, the EPA OIG will continue efforts to oversee the influx of approximately \$100 billion in supplemental appropriations under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, most of which is passed down in grants. The addition of the new EPA top management challenge of managing grants, contracts, and data systems, along with identifying grant fraud as an investigative priority, is an example of how the Oversight Plan and Investigative Priorities work in harmony to prevent fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct in EPA programs and operations.

The projects listed in the Oversight Plan may change in response to congressional requests, hotline tips, and unanticipated issues or crises affecting the EPA and CSB. Investigations look

into violations of the law and are typically not made public until the investigative work is complete.

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About the EPA OIG

The OIG is an independent office within the EPA that performs audits, evaluations, and investigations of the EPA and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board. For more information, visit <u>our website</u> and follow the OIG on <u>X</u>, <u>LinkedIn</u>, and <u>Instagram</u>. Anyone with knowledge of potential waste, fraud, and abuse relating to EPA operations and programs is encouraged to report it to the <u>OIG Hotline</u> at (888) 546-8740 or <u>OIG.Hotline@epa.gov</u>.