



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

January 31, 2024

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Evaluation of the South Carolina Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program's Capacity to Manage Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Funding
Project No. OSRE-FY24-0043

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

TO: Jeaneanne Gettle, Acting Regional Administrator
EPA Region 4

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an evaluation of the South Carolina Clean Water State Revolving Fund, or CWSRF, Program's capacity to manage Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, or IJJA, funds. This evaluation is part of the OIG's [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Oversight Plan](#). This evaluation also addresses the following fiscal year 2024 [top management challenges](#) for the EPA: managing grants, contracts, and data systems; maximizing compliance with environmental laws and regulations; and overseeing, protecting, and investing in water and wastewater systems.

Our objective is to determine South Carolina's capacity to manage and use IJJA funds for its CWSRF Program. We plan to conduct work at the headquarters of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and of the Rural Infrastructure Authority, both of which are located in Columbia, South Carolina. 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 identifying the possible risks facing South Carolina's capacity to manage and use IJJA funds, as well as the additional technical or administrative support that the EPA could provide to enhance South Carolina's CWSRF Program performance.

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 have sent similar notifications to Bonnie Ammons, executive director of the South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority, and Dr. Edward Simmer, agency director of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control. We will post these notifications on our public website at www.epaoig.gov. 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](#).

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