



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

January 31, 2024

Ms. Bonnie Ammons
Executive Director
South Carolina Rural Infrastructure Authority
1201 Main Street, Suite 1600
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Ms. Ammons:

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 IIJA, 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. The project number for this evaluation is Project No. OSRE-FY24-0043.

Our objective is to determine South Carolina's capacity to manage and use IIJA 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 IIJA 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, 5 U.S.C. § 404(a)(1), authorizes the OIG "to conduct, supervise, and coordinate audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations" of the EPA. In addition, South Carolina is the recipient of federal award funds pursuant to the IIJA, and 2 C.F.R. § 200.337(a) provides that "Inspectors General . . . must have the right of access to any documents, papers, or other records of the non-Federal entity which are pertinent to the Federal Award, in order to make audits, examinations, excerpts, and transcripts." This right "also includes timely and reasonable access to the non-Federal entity's personnel for the purpose of interview and discussion related to such documents."

We have sent similar notifications to Jeanne Gettle, Acting Regional Administrator for EPA Region 4, 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](#).

Sincerely,



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

cc: Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Nicole N. Murley, Deputy Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency