



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

May 20, 2025

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Audit of the EPA's Fiscal Year 2022 Brownfields Assessment Grants
Project No. OA-FY25-0067

FROM: Roopa Mulchandani, Director
Recycling, Cleanup, and Pollution Prevention Directorate
Office of Audit

TO: Barry Breen, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator performing the duties of the
Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an audit of the Brownfields Assessment Grant Program. This audit is the result of our continued oversight of the EPA's Brownfields Program. The project number is OA-FY25-0067.

Our objective is to determine whether Brownfields Assessment Grant recipients, funded by fiscal year 2022 annual appropriations and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act funds, drew down funds and completed assessments in accordance with grant terms and conditions. We plan to conduct work within the Office of Land Emergency Management, the Office of Grants and Debarment, and select EPA regions.

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 audit process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the audit. Throughout the audit, we will provide updates on a regular basis.

To expedite our audit, please be ready to provide the following information by May 30, 2025:

- Policies, procedures, and guidance documents from 2022 to 2025 on the management of Brownfields Assessment Grants.
- Any investigations or legal proceedings significant to the audit objective that have been initiated or are in process with respect to the period under audit.
- Any previous engagements or other studies directly related to the audit objective and whether related recommendations have been implemented.

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. Additionally, Administrator Lee Zeldin, in a February 7, 2025 email to EPA employees, said that “the OIG requires information and assistance from EPA managers and staff on a regular basis” and outlined his expectation that EPA employees “report waste, fraud, and abuse to the OIG.” He explained that this “responsibility to report appropriate activity to the OIG is one of the most important and successful means the OIG has for identifying and stopping wrongdoing” and that review and oversight enable the Agency to be more effective in achieving its mission. 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.epaoig.gov. Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this audit should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

cc: Travis Voyles, Acting Deputy Administrator
Eric Amidon, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator
Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator
Steven Cook, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management
Mark Sanborn, Regional Administrator, Region 1
Michael Martucci, Regional Administrator, Region 2
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Susan Perkins, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
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Nicole N. Murley, Acting Inspector General

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