

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

June 11, 2025

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:

Inspection of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act-Funded Activities at the Diaz

Faul Hitenstrand

Chemical Corp. Superfund Site in Holley, New York

Project No. OSRE-FY25-0071

FROM: Paul H. Bergstrand, Assistant Inspector General

Office of Special Review and Evaluation

TO: Barry Breen, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator

Office Land and Emergency Management

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to conduct an inspection of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act-, or IIJA-, funded remediation activities at the Diaz Chemical Corp. Superfund site. This inspection is self-initiated and aligned with the OIG's <u>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act Oversight Plan</u>.

Our objective is to determine the extent to which the EPA is using IIJA funds to progress remediation at the Diaz Chemical Corp. Superfund site and whether the EPA has site safety measures in place to protect public health and the environment. We plan to conduct work within the Office of Land and Emergency Management and Region 2. We will conduct the inspection using *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

We will contact the audit liaison 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 inspection process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the inspection. Throughout the inspection, 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. 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 inspection should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the "OIG Hotline" webpage.

cc: Travis Voyles, Assistant 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 for Land and Emergency Management

Michael Martucci, Regional Administrator for Region 2

Alyssa Arcaya, Deputy Regional Administrator for Region 2

Susan Perkins, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator

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Erica Kavanagh, Associate Deputy Inspector General performing the duties of the Deputy Inspector General