



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

September 11, 2025

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Audit of Engineering Control Deficiencies at Superfund Sites
Project No. OA-FY25-0087

FROM: Katherine Trimble, Assistant Inspector General
Office of Audit

TO: Steven Cook, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management

Nena Shaw, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management
Office of Land and Emergency Management

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General plans to begin an audit of engineering control deficiencies at Superfund sites. This audit is the result of our continued oversight of the Superfund Program. The project number is OA-FY25-0087.

Our objective is to identify the types and prevalence of engineering control deficiencies at Superfund sites, as documented in Five-Year Reviews from FY 2020 through FY 2024. We plan to conduct work within the Office of Land and Emergency Management and the EPA regions.

We will contact your office 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 provide the following information as soon as possible after receipt of this notification:

- Office of Land and Emergency Management policies, procedures, and guidance documents applicable to engineering controls at Superfund sites.
- Office of Land and Emergency Management organizational structure, budget, and staffing information.
- Information on risk assessments or other internal reviews applicable to the audit objective.

- Office of Land and Emergency Management and EPA regional personnel who can serve as contacts for the OIG regarding engineering controls at Superfund sites.
- The 65 Five-Year Reviews which were included in Annual Reports to Congress for FY 2020 through FY 2023 but missing from the Five-Year Review files transmitted to the OIG on August 11, 2025. The list of missing Five-Year Reviews that the OIG identified was transmitted to the Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation on August 29, 2025.

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: David Fotouhi, Deputy Administrator

Travis Voyles, Associate Deputy Administrator

Eric Amidon, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator

Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator

John Evans, Senior Advisor for Implementation, Office of Land and Emergency Management

Silvina Fonseca, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology

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