




UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

July 20, 2021

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Audit:
Awarding, Monitoring, and Performance of EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grants
Project No. OA-FY21-0227

FROM: Khadija Walker, Director
Business Operations Directorate
Office of Audit 

TO: Cheryl Newton, Acting Administrator
EPA Region 5

Chris Korleski, Director
Great Lakes National Program Office

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to begin fieldwork on this audit beginning in July 2021. This audit is included in the OIG's [Fiscal Year 2021 Oversight Plan](#). The audit will examine the EPA's execution and monitoring of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants to determine whether they were awarded in accordance with federal grants requirements and to assess how the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects support the Agency's goals for the Great Lakes. This audit also addresses the following top management challenge for the Agency, as identified in our [EPA's FYs 2020–2021 Top Management Challenges](#) report, issued July 21, 2020: overseeing states, territories, and tribes responsible for implementing EPA programs.

The OIG's objectives for this audit are to determine:

1. Whether the EPA awarded and monitored Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants in accordance with the Uniform Grant Guidance (2 C.F.R. 200) and other applicable federal laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.
2. The extent to which EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants support the Agency's program goals for the Great Lakes.

The OIG plans to conduct work within the EPA Region 5 Great Lakes National Program Office. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our audit. The anticipated benefits of this audit are improved operational efficiency and effectiveness in the management of EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants and the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your 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.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its 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 an April 28, 2021 email message to EPA employees, conveyed his “expectation that EPA personnel provide OIG timely access to records or other information” and observed that “full cooperation with the OIG is in the best interest of the public we serve.” We will request that you immediately resolve the situation if an Agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested materials to the OIG or otherwise fails to cooperate with the OIG. We may report unresolved access matters to the administrator and include the incident in the *Semiannual Report to Congress*.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epa.gov/oig.

cc: Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator

Dan Utech, Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator

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

Faisal Amin, Agency Follow-Up Official (the CFO)

Andrew LeBlanc, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator

José Kercado, Backup Agency Follow-Up Coordinator

Lindsay Hamilton, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs

Lance McCluney, Director, Office of Administrative and Executive Services, Office of the Administrator

Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator, Office of Water

Benita Best-Wong, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water

Tiffany Crawford, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Water

Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10

Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General

Charles J. Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General

Edward S. Shields, Associate Deputy Inspector General

Benjamin May, Counsel to the Inspector General

Kellie J. Walker, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of Inspector General

Katherine Trimble, Assistant Inspector General for Audit

Helina P. Wong, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations

Erin Barnes-Weaver, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Special Review and Evaluation

Jee Kim, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Management

Tom Collick, Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General

Susan Barvenik, Associate Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General

James Hatfield, Associate Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit

Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs

Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General

Lori Hoffman, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General