



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

OFFICE OF WATER

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Updated Response to Office of Inspector General's Report *EPA's 2018 BEACH Act Report to Congress Does Not Fully Meet Statutory Requirements*, Report No. 20-E-0246, issued August 13, 2020

FROM: Radhika Fox
Assistant Administrator

RADHIKA FOX

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RADHIKA FOX
Date: 2021.07.23
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TO: Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General
Office of Inspector General

I am writing to provide an update to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) response on October 8, 2020, regarding the recommendations in the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) report, *EPA's 2018 BEACH Act Report to Congress Does not Fully Meet Statutory Requirements* (Report No. 20-E-0246, issued August 13, 2020). EPA maintains its position that OIG withdraw its report. We continue to disagree with the necessity for the two recommendations in the report since EPA had already committed to submit reports to Congress in accordance with the requirements of the BEACH Act. This commitment is documented in the Supplemental Response memo regarding the Office of Water's response to Recommendation 1 in OIG Report No. 18-P-0071 (dated May 10, 2018). Additionally, the utility of a written strategy, as recommended in the 2020 report, remains unclear to EPA. However, in an effort to address OIG's concern that "EPA missed the opportunity to provide Congress with the information needed for effective decision-making," the Office of Water plans to work with staff in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations to reach out to Congress for input on the Beach program's Report to Congress and how it could better serve Congress' needs or whether there is a need for ongoing reporting. EPA notes that this situation is unique in that although Congress has continued to fund the Beach Program, Congress did not contact EPA during the 10-year absence of the Report to Congress to request the reports. We have begun these efforts and would be happy to provide an update to OIG on these efforts at a future date.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact Tiffany Crawford, Audit Follow-up Coordinator for the Office of Water, at 202-566-2375 or Crawford.Tiffany@epa.gov.

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