



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

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 12, 2021

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Agency Response to Report No. [20-E-0246](#), *EPA's 2018 BEACH Act Report to Congress Does Not Fully Meet Statutory Requirements*, issued August 13, 2020

FROM: Sean W. O'Donnell

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sean W O'Donnell".

TO: Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

Thank you for your July 23, 2021 memorandum, which outlines the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's position regarding the subject Office of Inspector General report. We appreciate the Office of Water's plan to work with staff in the Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations to reach out to Congress for input on the EPA's Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000, or BEACH Act, program.

Your memorandum, however, did not provide corrective actions that meet the intent of the report's two recommendations. You also reiterated the Office of Water's request—previously made in memorandums dated June 5, 2020, and October 8, 2020—that the EPA OIG withdraw its report. We remain committed to our recommendations and continue to consider Recommendations 1 and 2 unresolved. The issuance of informative BEACH Act reports allows Congress to make informed program decisions, improve program oversight, and enhance transparency. A written strategy helps ensure the quality and utility of these reports.

The Agency should follow the dispute resolution process defined in EPA Manual 2750.

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

cc: Tiffany Crawford, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Water
Andrew LeBlanc, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
José Kercado, Backup Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Charles J. Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Edward S. Shields, Associate Deputy Inspector General
Katherine Trimble, Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Paul Bergstrand, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Special Review and Evaluation
James Hatfield, Associate Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit
Erin Barnes-Weaver, Acting Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Special Review and Evaluation
Michael D. Davis, Director, Environmental Investment and Infrastructure Directorate, Office of Audit, Office of Inspector General