



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

June 29, 2022

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Evaluation:
Air Quality at US Maritime Ports
Project No. OSRE-FY22-0140

FROM: Laurretta Joseph, Director
Programs, Offices, and Centers Oversight Directorate
Office of Special Review and Evaluation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laurretta", is positioned to the right of the "FROM:" line.

TO: Joseph Goffman, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to begin an evaluation. This assignment was internally generated and was not part of the OIG's fiscal year 2022 oversight plan. This evaluation addresses the following fiscal year 2022 [top management challenge](#) for the Agency: *mitigating the causes and adapting to the impacts of climate change*.

Our objective is to determine what steps, if any, the EPA is taking to address the increase in air pollution from oceangoing vessels at U.S. maritime ports. We plan to conduct work with the Office of Air and Radiation and, as needed, regional offices. The evaluation will be conducted using *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. The anticipated benefit of this evaluation includes a greater assurance that established air pollution mitigation factors will be protective during times of increased port activities.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your questions about the evaluation process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the evaluation. Throughout the evaluation, 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
Jon Monger, Associate Deputy Administrator
Wesley J. Carpenter, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Administrator
Elizabeth Shaw, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation
Sarah Dunham, Director, Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Office of Air and Radiation
Victoria Arroyo, Associate Administrator for Policy, Office of the Administrator
Julia Burch, Audit Liaison, Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Office of Air and Radiation
Susan Perkins, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
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
Marc Vincent, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Air and Radiation
Grant Peacock, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Air and Radiation
Ashley Thompson, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Air and Radiation
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10
Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General
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