



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

July 13, 2022

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Notification of Evaluation:  
EPA's Oversight of Hazardous Waste at EPA Laboratories  
Project No. OSRE-FY22-0141

**FROM:** Laretta Joseph, Director  
Programs, Offices, and Centers Oversight  
Office of Special Review and Evaluation

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

**TO:** Lawrence Starfield, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Barry Breen, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Land and Emergency Management

Dr. Chris Frey, Assistant Administrator and EPA Science Advisor  
Office of Research and Development

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to begin an evaluation. This evaluation is part of the OIG's [oversight plan](#) for fiscal year 2022. This evaluation also addresses the following fiscal year 2022 [top management challenge](#) for the Agency: *Enforcing environmental laws and regulations*.

Our objective is to determine whether the EPA has verified that its own laboratories are complying with Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA, requirements for the management of hazardous waste. We plan to conduct work in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, the Office of Research and Development, and the Office of Land and Emergency Management. We may also visit selected EPA laboratories and meet with relevant regional office personnel. 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 benefits of this evaluation include greater assurance that EPA laboratories are managing hazardous waste in compliance with RCRA.

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.

To expedite our evaluation, please be ready to provide a complete list of the EPA's laboratories, including the RCRA ID and physical address for each before or at the entrance conference.

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](http://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  
Dr. Maureen Gwinn, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development  
Carlton Waterhouse, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Land and Emergency Management  
Gwendolyn Spriggs, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Kelly van Bronkhorst, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Research and Development  
Kecia Thornton, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Land and Emergency Management  
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  
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10  
Sean W. O'Donnell, Inspector General  
Nicole N. Murley, Acting Deputy Inspector General  
Benjamin May, Counsel to the Inspector General  
Kellie J. Walker, Chief of Staff, Office of Inspector General  
Katherine Trimble, Assistant Inspector General for Audit  
Paul H. Bergstrand, Assistant Inspector General for Special Review and Evaluation  
Jason Abend, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations  
Tom Collick, Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General  
Laura B. Nicolosi, Principal Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit  
Erin Barnes-Weaver, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Evaluation  
James Hatfield, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit  
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs  
Lori Hoffman, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General