



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

November 14, 2022

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Audit:
Jackson, Mississippi Drinking Water Funding and Spending Decisions
Project No. OA-FY23-0035

FROM: Khadija Walker, Director
Business Operation Audits
Office of Audit

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

TO: Daniel Blackman, Regional Administrator
Region 4

The Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency plans to begin an audit to identify federal funding and spending decisions related to drinking water in Jackson, Mississippi. This audit, which follows an OIG [inquiry](#), addresses the following top management challenge for the Agency: managing business operations.

Our objective is to identify award and expenditure decisions at the state and local level related to the community water system in Jackson. We plan to conduct work in the Mississippi State Department of Health and the City of Jackson; however, we may also include work in EPA Region 4 office. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our audit. The anticipated benefits of this audit include improved operational efficiency to protect human health and the environment.

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. Anyone with knowledge of potential fraud, waste, abuse, misconduct, or mismanagement related to this audit should contact the OIG Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the “OIG Hotline” [webpage](#).

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

Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator for Water

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

Navis Bermudez, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water

Bruno Pigott, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water

Macara Lousberg, Director, Office of Program Analysis, Regulatory, and Management Support,
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