



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

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 30, 2023

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification:
Inquiry into Source Water Contamination in St. Charles, Missouri
OSRE-FY23-G-0042

FROM: Sean W. O'Donnell 

TO: Meghan McCollister, Regional Administrator
EPA Region 7

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General is initiating an inquiry into the potential contamination of the Elm Point Wellfield drinking water source in St. Charles, Missouri. As part of this inquiry, we will conduct interviews, gather data, and analyze a variety of issues, including adherence to regulations, policies, and procedures for responding to potential contamination. We may contact individuals associated with the EPA Region 7 Water Division, Superfund and Emergency Management Division, and Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division, as well as individuals associated with the State of Missouri and the City of St. Charles.

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 inquiry should contact the OIG's Hotline at (888) 546-8740 or via an electronic form on the "OIG Hotline" [webpage](#).

Questions about this topic should be directed to the OIG's public affairs office at (202) 566-2391.

cc: Janet McCabe, Deputy Administrator
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