



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

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

May 1, 2023

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Certification Memorandum for Office of Inspector General
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 

TO: Radhika Fox, Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

Thank you for your April 06, 2023 memorandum, which certifies actions taken by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in response to the subject Office of Inspector General report. The report included two unresolved recommendations:

1. Develop and adopt a written strategy that lays out steps the EPA will take to verify that future reports to Congress fully meet (a) the reporting requirements in the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000, (b) expectations that federal agencies comply with the Plain Writing Act of 2010, and (c) federal internal control principles.
2. Develop and submit a report to Congress in 2022 that includes an evaluation of federal, state, and local efforts to implement the Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act of 2000, based on the EPA's annual reviews of Beaches Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health Act grants, information reported in the swimming season reports, and additional relevant resources.

The EPA neither formally agreed to the report recommendations nor provided proposed corrective actions and estimated completion dates. However, based on your memorandum, the supporting documentation provided, and information Office of Water staff relayed to my staff in a meeting held on March 31, 2023, I conclude that the EPA completed corrective actions that meet the intent of the report's recommendations. Specifically, in response to Recommendation 1, the EPA developed a strategy for completing the quadrennial reports to Congress. In response to Recommendation 2, the EPA submitted its [report](#) to Congress in September 2022.

I therefore consider all recommendations for the subject report to be resolved and implementation of corrective actions to be completed.

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

cc: Benita Best-Wong, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water
Bruno Pigott, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water
Macara Lousberg, Director, Office of Program Analysis, Regulatory, and Management Support,
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