

Compendium of Open Recommendations: Data as of May 31, 2025

Why We Published This Compendium

The Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, requires each inspector general to prepare semiannual reports for Congress. As part of that reporting, the inspector general must identify all recommendations from the prior reporting period for which corrective actions have not been completed by the agency, as well as any management decisions with respect to audit, inspection, or evaluation reports issued during that prior reporting period.

In our most recent semiannual report for Congress, which covers the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Inspector General's work from October 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025, we listed all resolved recommendations as of September 30, 2024. We are publishing this compendium to provide an update on the recommendations we have issued to the Agency that remained open as of May 31, 2025. Open recommendations include all recommendations, both resolved and unresolved, for which corrective action has not been completed. We also highlight those recommendations that we consider to be high priority.

Address inquiries to our public affairs office at (202) 566-2391 or OIG.PublicAffairs@epa.gov.

List of OIG reports.

Updates to Resolved Recommendations from the Semiannual Report

This compendium provides an update on the 80 resolved recommendations that we identified in EPA Publication No. <u>EPA-350-R-25-001</u>, *Semiannual Report to Congress:*October 1, 2024–March 31, 2025. **Resolved recommendations** are those that the responsible EPA office and the OIG agree on but for which the agreed-upon corrective actions have not yet been completed, regardless of whether their expected due dates are in the past or the future. Our update recognizes changes in the status of recommendations that occurred after the issuance of the semiannual report but not later than May 31. Since two of the 80 resolved recommendations in the semiannual report were completed in that time frame, this update analyzes 78 resolved recommendations, which represent over \$43.3 million in potential cost savings.

Completing corrective actions on the remaining resolved recommendations listed in the most recent semiannual report could have potential cost savings of over \$43.3 million.

Of those 78 resolved recommendations, 43 recommendations will be at least three years old on the scheduled corrective action completion date. These 43 recommendations represent over \$33.3 million in potential cost savings. Delayed implementation of our recommendations leaves the Agency more vulnerable to fraud, waste, and abuse and potentially unable to meet its goals in the most effective and efficient manner.

Unresolved Recommendations

In addition to the 78 resolved recommendations, 15 of the recommendations that we have issued to the EPA through May 31, 2025, remain unresolved. **Unresolved recommendations** are those that the responsible EPA office disagrees with; has not provided a formal, complete, written response to; or has proposed corrective actions that it and the OIG have not agreed upon. The importance of resolving recommendations is reflected in Office of Management and Budget <u>Circular No. A-50</u>, which requires that each agency "establish processes to ensure the prompt and proper resolution and implementation of audit, inspection, or evaluation recommendations and implementation of corrective actions."

High-Priority Recommendations

In this report, we also highlight 13 high-priority recommendations that we have issued to the EPA through May 31, 2025, with potential monetary benefits of nearly \$865.8 million. These include five resolved recommendations not listed in Appendix 3 of the semiannual report because they were issued after September 30, 2024. **High-priority recommendations** include those that, if implemented, could significantly impact EPA program efficiency and effectiveness; improve the Agency's ability to manage operations and programs; or result in significant potential monetary benefits.

The 13 high-priority recommendations could have potential monetary benefits of nearly \$865.8 million.