



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

February 5, 2014

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
EPA's Oversight of Hydraulic Fracturing Impact on Water Resources  
Project No. OPE-FY 14-0018

**FROM:** Dan Engelberg  
Director, Water Issues, Office of Program Evaluation

**TO:** Nancy Stoner  
Acting Assistant Administrator for Water

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is starting preliminary research on the EPA's and states' ability to manage potential threats to water resources from hydraulic fracturing. This project is included in our fiscal year 2014 annual plan.

The purpose of this memorandum is to schedule a kickoff meeting to confirm our mutual understandings on the objective and scope of the evaluation and the responsibilities of the Office of Water and the EPA OIG during the project.

The OIG's objective is to evaluate how the EPA and states have used their existing authorities to regulate hydraulic fracturing impacts to water resources. In meeting this objective, we will determine and evaluate what regulatory authority is available to the EPA and states, identify potential threats to water resources from hydraulic fracturing, and evaluate the EPA's and states' responses to them. We plan to perform work within the Office of Water and the EPA regions. We also plan to gather information from states with substantial hydraulic fracturing activity. In addition, we will contact environmental groups, industry groups, and gas and oil producers. The project will be conducted using applicable generally accepted government auditing standards. The anticipated benefits of this project are improved preventative and response measures and improved coordination among the EPA, states and industry to ensure water resources are adequately protected from the impacts of hydraulic fracturing.

I will supervise this project and Johnny Ross will serve as Team Leader. We will provide updates on a regular basis through meetings and correspondence with members of your office as necessary. If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 566-0830 or [engelberg.dan@epa.gov](mailto:engelberg.dan@epa.gov).

We will contact you within one week to arrange a mutually agreeable time to schedule our evaluation kickoff meeting to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any questions you may have about the project process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the course of the project.

cc: Michael H. Shapiro, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water  
Peter C. Grevatt, Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Office of Water  
Eric Bissonette, Acting Deputy Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water,  
Office of Water  
Andrew Sawyers, Director, Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Water  
Sheila Frace, Deputy Director, Office of Wastewater Management, Office of Water  
Marilyn Ramos, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Water  
Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Lek Kadeli, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Research and Development  
Regional Audit Liaisons 1-10  
Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General  
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General  
Aracely Nunez-Mattocks, Chief of Staff, OIG  
Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General  
Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation  
Richard Eyermann, Assistant Inspector General for Audit  
Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations  
Patricia Hill, Assistant Inspector General for Mission Systems  
Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation  
Khadija Walker, Project Manager, Water Issues, OIG  
Johnny Ross, Team Leader, Water Issues, OIG  
Danielle Tesch, Social Scientist, Water Issues, OIG  
Stacey Banks, Program Analyst, Water Issues, OIG