



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 08, 2016

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
EPA's Efforts to Evaluate Air Emissions from Animal Feeding Operations  
Project No. OPE-FY16-0018

**FROM:** James L. Hatfield, Director, Air Evaluations *James L. Hatfield*  
Office of Program Evaluation

**TO:** Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Air and Radiation

The purpose of this memorandum is to notify you that the Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin an evaluation of the EPA's efforts to evaluate air emissions from animal feeding operations. This project is included in the OIG's Fiscal Year 2016 Annual Plan.

The OIG's objective is to determine what actions the EPA has taken to evaluate air emissions from animal feeding operations, including the status of EPA's National Air Emissions Monitoring Study.

During the preliminary research phase of our evaluation, we plan to review applicable laws, regulations, policies, procedures and guidance related to animal feeding operations' air emissions. We also plan to review any EPA animal feeding operations' air emissions modeling or measurement studies as well as any animal feeding operations' air emissions studies conducted by entities outside of the agency.

We plan to begin our work within Office of Air and Radiation's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. We may also meet with selected state agencies that regulate animal feeding operations' air emissions, and with industry groups, environmental groups, and other stakeholders concerned with animal feeding operations' air emissions and how they are evaluated and addressed by the EPA.

We will contact your audit liaison to arrange a mutually agreeable time for a kickoff meeting to discuss the project's objective and our planned work. We will also answer any questions about the evaluation process and reporting procedures. Prior to or during our kickoff meeting, we request that you provide us with copies of (or links to) the following materials:

- A comprehensive list of all operating animal feeding operations in the United States that meet the definition of concentrated animal feeding operations, including the type, size, and geographic location of each facility.

- The EPA's response to the Science Advisory Board's 2013 review of the National Air Emissions Monitoring Study reports.
- The EPA's responses to all citizen petitions regarding potential regulation of animal feeding operations' air emissions.

To ensure the success and timely completion of this project, we respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978 to have timely access to personnel and all material necessary to complete its objectives. For this evaluation, we may request access to EPA databases, meetings and interviews with EPA personnel and contractors, and documentation related to animal feeding operations in the United States. We will request your resolution if an agency employee or contractor refuses to provide requested records 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.

If you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (919) 541-1030 or [hatfield.jim@epa.gov](mailto:hatfield.jim@epa.gov); or Erica Hauck, Project Manager, at (303) 312-6629 or [hauck.eric@epa.gov](mailto:hauck.eric@epa.gov).

cc: Elizabeth Shaw, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation  
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