



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 29, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
EPA Oversight of State Monitoring and Reporting of Drinking Water Results From
Public Water Systems
Project No. OPE-FY16-0032

FROM: Kathlene Butler, Director, Water Issues
Office of Program Evaluation

TO: Joel Beauvais, Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research to evaluate the EPA's oversight of state drinking water monitoring. This project is included in the OIG's Annual Plan for fiscal year 2016.

Our objectives are to evaluate how the EPA ensures that Safe Drinking Water Act primacy states monitor and report drinking water sampling results from public water systems, and to determine whether the EPA can improve its oversight of state drinking water sampling programs.

The OIG plans to conduct initial work at EPA headquarters, as well as in selected regions and states. To conduct our work, we are requesting that the Office of Water provide us with information on who collects drinking water samples for the states in each region (e.g., water utility, state personnel, contractor).

Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are improvements in the protection of human health by determining the extent that EPA ensures compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements for regular drinking water compliance sampling.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time 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 of your questions 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. Throughout the project, we will provide monthly updates via scheduled teleconference calls with your designated officials.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978 to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objectives. 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.

I will supervise the project, and the Project Manager will be Tim Roach. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (404) 562-9736 or butler.kathlene@epa.gov, or to Tim Roach at (312) 886-3026 or roach.tim@epa.gov.

cc: Michael Shapiro, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Water
Lawrence Starfield, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
Shari Wilson, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
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