MEMORANDUM

October 30, 2019

SUBJECT: Notification of Audit: Effectiveness of Clean Water Act to Protect from Plastic Pollution
Project No. OA&E-FY19-0086

FROM: Kathlene Butler, Director
Water Directorate
Office of Audit and Evaluation

TO: David P. Ross, Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science
Office of Research and Development

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to conduct fieldwork to evaluate the EPA’s programs in the Office of Water and Office of Research and Development that address plastic pollution. This audit is included in our annual plan.

The OIG’s objective is to identify the extent to which the EPA’s existing Clean Water Act programs and Office of Research and Development initiatives address threats and risks to public health and the environment from plastic pollution within the waters of the United States. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our audit. The anticipated benefits of this audit are improved operational efficiency and increased pollution identification.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective and the purpose of our audit. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your questions about the audit process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the audit. Throughout the audit, we will provide updates on a regular basis.

To expedite our audit, please be ready to provide the following information at the entrance conference:

- Access to any strategic planning documents on the Trash Free Waters program.
- Scientific reports, research or other applicable EPA data on addressing plastic pollution.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objectives. We will request that you resolve the situation 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 audit, 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 Tim Roach at (312) 886-3026 or roach.tim@epa.gov.

cc:  Henry Darwin, Assistant Deputy Administrator  
     Doug Benevento, Associate Deputy Administrator  
     Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff  
     Michael Molina, Deputy Chief of Staff  
     Kevin DeBell, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff  
     Annette Morant, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator  
     Corry Schiermeyer, Associate Administrator for Public Affairs  
     Lee Forsgren, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water  
     Anna Wildeman, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water  
     Benita Best-Wong, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Water  
     David Dunlap, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, Office of Research and Development  
     Suzanne VanDrunick, National Program Director, Safe and Sustainable Water Resources Research Program, Office of Research and Development  
     Steven Moore, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Water  
     Maureen Hingeley, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Research and Development  
     Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10  
     Charles J. Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General  
     Edward Shields, Associate Deputy Inspector General  
     Eric Hanger, Deputy Counsel to the Inspector General  
     Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation  
     Helina Wong, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations  
     Stephanie Wright, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Management  
     Richard Eyermann, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation  
     Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation  
     Rashmi Bartlett, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation  
     Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs  
     Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General  
     Tia Elbaum, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General