



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

May 6, 2020

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Evaluation of EPA's Information Systems' Compliance with Federal System Security Plans Requirements
Project No. OA&E-FY20-0176

FROM: Rudolph M. Brevard, Director
Information Resources Management Directorate
Office of Audit and Evaluation

Vincent Campbell for

TO: David Bloom, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

Peter Wright, Assistant Administrator
Office of Land and Emergency Management

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

On April 20, 2020, the Office of Inspector General for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency began an evaluation of the EPA's System Security Plans. The objectives of our evaluation have been modified from those in our April 20, 2020 notification memo. The modified objectives are in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The OIG's objectives are to determine whether the EPA's System Security Plans are developed and updated in accordance with the standards published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, and to evaluate specific elements within the System Security Plans to determine whether they provide specified details to allow the EPA to make risk-based decisions to secure the Agency's network during the COVID-19 disease. The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters. The evaluation will be conducted using *Quality Standards for Inspection and Evaluation*, issued by the Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency. The anticipated benefit of this evaluation is to improve the security of the EPA's networks, information systems, and data.

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

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 materials 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 evaluation and the project manager will be Albert Schmidt. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (202) 566-0893 or brevard.rudy@epa.gov; or Albert Schmidt at (202) 566-0363 or schmidt.albert@epa.gov.

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