



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 15, 2015

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
EPA Benefits from STAR Grant Results  
Project No. OPE-FY15-0017

**FROM:** Patrick Gilbride, Director /s/  
Science, Research, and Management Integrity Evaluations

**TO:** Lek Kadeli, Acting Assistant Administrator  
Office of Research and Development

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on results from Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grants. This project is included in our fiscal year 2015 annual plan.

The OIG's objective is to determine the extent to which STAR grant research results are used to benefit the EPA's performance goals and objectives. We plan to conduct interviews with staff and managers in the National Center for Environmental Research and other relevant offices within the EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD). In addition, we may conduct interviews with other EPA program offices and STAR grant recipients. We will use applicable generally accepted government auditing standards in conducting our project. The anticipated benefit of this project is improved understanding on how STAR grants achieve outcomes aligned with EPA's performance goals.

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 updates on a regular basis through monthly status meetings held via phone or video conferencing.

I will supervise this project, and Erin Barnes-Weaver will be the Project Manager. To ensure the success and timely completion of this project, please provide the following information to Mrs. Barnes-Weaver:

- A logic model on the STAR program (if available).
- Any policies, procedures and guidance related to STAR grant oversight/monitoring.
- ORD's response to a 2003 report by the National Academy of Sciences' National Research Council, *The Measure of STAR: Review of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency's Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Research Grants Program*.
- Any other internal or external evaluations of STAR grants (aside from the preceding 2003 National Academy of Sciences report and prior EPA OIG reports).

Please provide these items to the extent possible before or at the time of the kickoff meeting.

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 objective. 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.

Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (303) 312-6969 or [gilbride.patrick@epa.gov](mailto:gilbride.patrick@epa.gov), or Erin Barnes-Weaver at (303) 312-6871 or [barnes-weaver.erin@epa.gov](mailto:barnes-weaver.erin@epa.gov).

cc: Dr. Thomas Burke, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Science Advisor, ORD  
Dr. James H. Johnson, Jr., Director, National Center for Environmental Research, ORD  
Darrell Winner, Acting Deputy Director, National Center for Environmental Research, ORD  
Dr. Robert Kavlock, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, ORD  
Hyon Kim, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, ORD  
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  
Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit  
Patricia Hill, Assistant Inspector General for Mission Systems  
Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations  
Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation  
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs  
Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, OIG