



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 2, 2014

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Follow-Up on OIG Report 12-P-0417, *Weaknesses in EPA's Management of the Radiation Network System Demand Attention*
Project No. OPE-FY14-0010

FROM: Eric Lewis, Product Line Director *Eric Lewis*
Special Program Reviews, Office of Program Evaluation

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

Craig E. Hooks, Assistant Administrator
Office of Administration and Resources Management

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Inspector General (OIG) is beginning preliminary research on the EPA's actions to address the recommendations in the April 19, 2012, OIG Report 12-P-0417, *Weaknesses in EPA's Management of the Radiation Network System Demand Attention*. It will focus on the status of the corrective actions for recommendations 1 through 7, for which corrective actions are listed as completed in the agency's Management Audit Tracking System (MATS). We plan to assess whether these corrective actions resolved the problems identified in the prior report. The 7 report recommendations are listed in the attachment. This review is included in our fiscal year 2014 annual plan.

The project manager will be Dwayne Crawford and the team members will be Chris Baughman, Andre Von Hoyer II and Rodney Rice. We will contact the audit liaisons to arrange a specific time and date for a kickoff conference. Given the recent holidays, it will probably be the week of January 13. During the meeting, we will answer any questions you have about the review process. At or before the meeting, we would like to have the following in an electronic format:

- Critical infrastructure protection plan, or equivalent, identifying the number of planned air monitors in RadNet.
- Pertinent quality assurance documents for the RadNet near-real-time air monitors and for the analysis of the related air filters, such as quality assurance project plans and quality assurance manual.
- Current contracts to purchase or support (repair, maintenance, and parts) RadNet air monitors.
- For each recommendation, the name and contact information of the individual(s) involved in performing the corrective actions.

We will provide updates on a regular basis to agreed-upon contacts from your offices. However, if you or your staff have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 566-2664 or lewis.eric@epa.gov; or Mr. Crawford at (202)566-2894 or crawford.dwayne@epa.gov.

Attachment

cc: John Bashista, Director, Office of Acquisition Management, OARM
Tom O'Connell, Director, RTP Procurement Operations Division, OARM
Mike Flynn, Director, Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, OAR
John Griggs, Director, National Analytical Radiation Environmental Laboratory, OAR
Brandon McDowell, OARM Audit Follow-Up Coordinator
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Dave Christofel, RTP POD OAM Audit Follow-up Coordinator
Maureen Hingeley, OAR Audit Follow-Up Coordinator
Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General
Aracely Nunez-Mattocks, Chief of Staff, OIG
Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Patricia Hill, Assistant Inspector General for Mission Systems
Richard Eyermann, Acting Assistant Inspector General for Audit

Recommendations in Report No. 12-P-0417

We recommend that the Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation:

1. Establish and enforce written expectations for RadNet (Radiation Network) operational readiness commensurate with its role in and importance to EPA's mission. Include, at a minimum:
 - a. Percentage of stationary monitors expected to be operational.
 - b. Maximum length of time stationary monitors are permitted to be nonoperational.
 - c. Plan for temporarily backing up broken stationary monitors when operational status is lower than required.
 - d. Availability of monitor operators.
2. Implement metrics for RadNet operational readiness to be reviewed daily by NAREL (National Air and Radiation Environmental Laboratory), and periodically by OAR (Office of Air and Radiation) (at least monthly) and by the Deputy Administrator (as needed), to include, at a minimum:
 - a. Percentage of monitors operational.
 - b. Length of time in nonoperational status.
 - c. Need for backup monitors when operational status is too low.
 - d. Operator availability.
3. Direct that NAREL improve planning and management for RadNet to include, at a minimum:
 - a. Provide for in-stock spare parts to assure operational status established under recommendation 1.
 - b. Implement measures to assure that operators are available.
 - c. How often filter changes are needed to provide consistency in throughput at NAREL's analytical laboratory and implement a metric for these filter changes.

We recommend that the Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, in conjunction with the Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management:

4. Require follow-on RadNet contracts to include incentives/disincentives and a requirement for MPRs (monthly progress reports).
5. Require the CO (contracting officer) and COR (contracting officer representative) to formally evaluate RadNet contractors' performance on an annual basis and enter information into PPIRS (Past Performance Information Retrieval System) through CPARS (Contractor Performance Assessment Reporting System).
6. Determine whether domestic contract options are available for crucial repair parts that are identified as only being available from a foreign subcontractor.
7. Review the information in MATS (Management Audit Tracking System) for the prior audit and ensure it is accurate and current.