



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 19, 2015

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Benefits to EPA Research Goals from Reimbursable Research
Project No. OPE-FY15-0021

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) plans to begin preliminary research on the Office of Research and Development's reimbursable research agreements on April 3, 2015. We are initiating this review based on our 2015 annual project planning.

The OIG's preliminary research objective is to determine whether EPA benefited from research under reimbursable agreements and how those benefits supported EPA's mission. The OIG plans to conduct work at ORD offices and centers. We will review the work and results under several reimbursable agreements, which we will select early on in our preliminary research phase. The anticipated benefits of this project are improved decision making and increased efficiency in managing and implementing reimbursable agreements. We will conduct our work in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

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 every 4 to 5 weeks by phone with you or the officials you designate to receive the updates.

To ensure the success and timely completion of this project, please provide the following information, in electronic form, by April 1, 2015:

- ORD policies or procedures specific to reimbursable agreements.
- Points of contact for ORD reimbursable agreement processes.

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.

The project will be supervised by Patrick Gilbride, Director of Science, Research and Management Integrity, and the Project Manager will be Randy Holthaus. Any information related to the project should be addressed to Patrick Gilbride at (303) 312-6969 or gilbride.patrick@epa.gov, or Randy Holthaus at (214) 665-6620 or holthaus.randy@epa.gov.

cc: Dr. Robert Kavlock, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science, ORD
Amy Battaglia, Director, Office of Program Accountability and Resource Management, ORD
Heather Cursio, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, ORD
Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General
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