



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

March 26, 2014

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Evaluation of EPA Oversight of Hazardous Waste Imports
Project No. OPE-FY14-0036

FROM: Christina Lovingood, Director /s/
Land Cleanup and Waste Management Issues, Office of Program Evaluation

TO: Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Mathy Stanislaus, Assistant Administrator
Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response

Renee Wynn, Acting Assistant Administrator, Chief Information Officer
Office of Environmental Information

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the EPA oversight of hazardous waste imports on April 14, 2014. This project is included in our fiscal year 2014 annual plan. The evaluation objective is to determine the EPA's effectiveness in achieving the goal of ensuring that imported shipments are received and processed as expected. Specifically, we will address the following questions:

1. How does the EPA confirm that hazardous wastes imported to the United States reach their intended destination facility and that no hazardous waste is lost or unaccounted for?
2. What management or enforcement actions does the EPA take to respond to failures of shipments to reach intended destination facilities, and significant discrepancies in the volume or nature of hazardous waste shipped?

These objective questions are preliminary and subject to change if the OIG moves into the fieldwork phase of the evaluation.

We will interview relevant managers and staff in the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA), the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), the Office of Environmental Information (OEI), and selected EPA regions and authorized states. We will update agreed-upon contacts from your offices on a regular basis on the status of our evaluation.

We will work with your Audit Follow-Up Coordinators to arrange a kickoff meeting at a mutually agreeable time to discuss the objectives, scope and purpose of preliminary research, as well as the responsibilities of the EPA and the OIG during the evaluation. We will answer any questions you have about the evaluation process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the course of the evaluation. At the kickoff meeting, we will also be interested in hearing about any of your concerns and obtaining your input on regions and states we should contact during preliminary research.

If you or your staff have any questions in the meantime, please contact me at (202) 566-2906 or lovingood.tina@epa.gov; or Steve Hanna, Project Manager, at (415) 947-4527 or hanna.steve@epa.gov.

cc: Lawrence Starfield, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, OECA
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