



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

July 09, 2015

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Evaluation of Office of Pesticide Programs' Genetically Engineered
Corn Insect Resistance Management
Project No. OPE-FY15-0055

FROM: Jeffrey Harris, Director
Toxics, Chemical Management and Pollution Prevention Evaluations
Office of Program Evaluation

TO: Jim Jones, Assistant Administrator
Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention, Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), Biopesticides and Pollution Prevention Division's ability to manage and prevent increased insect resistance to genetically engineered *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) corn. This project is included in our fiscal year 2015 annual plan.

Our objectives are to determine (1) the extent to which OPP collects and reviews industry Compliance Assurance Program reports submitted by genetically engineering corn seed registrants and (2) actions taken by OPP when registrants report increased insect resistance to genetically engineered Bt corn. The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters and at any other relevant sites. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used to conduct our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are to ensure that insect resistance to Bt corn is being appropriately tracked and managed. Additionally, the evaluation will inform external stakeholders and industry of the steps the agency takes to increase refuge compliance and decrease insect resistance to Bt corn.

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 are also 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 regular teleconference or videoconference updates to the point of contact designated by your office.

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 our Semiannual Report to Congress.

Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (202) 566-0831 or harris.jeffrey@epa.gov; or to the Project Manager, Laretta Joseph, at (212) 637-3049 or joseph.lauretta@epa.gov.

cc: Louise Wise, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Jack Housenger, Director, Office of Pesticide Programs, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
Janet Weiner, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
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