



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 15, 2014

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Evaluation of EPA Policies and Responsiveness to Public Petitions on Pesticide Issues
Project No. OPE-FY15-0004

FROM: Jeffrey K. 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) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the agency's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) process for responding to public petitions. This project is included in our annual plan. We will focus on the policies and procedures OCSPP utilizes when responding to public petitions involving pesticide issues.

Our objective is to examine the effectiveness of the processes used to track the receipt, disposition, and resolution of public petitions. The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters including review of petition tracking databases and interviews with managers and staff. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used to conduct the project. The anticipated benefits of this project include ensuring the validity and transparency of reporting, and identifying best practices.

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 updates on a monthly basis via scheduled teleconference calls to officials 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 objective(s). 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, Heather Cursio, at (202) 566-2327 or cursio.heather@epa.gov.

cc: Louise Wise, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
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