



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 16, 2013

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Notification of Preliminary Research to Evaluate the EPA's Watch List
Project No. OPE-FY13-0011

FROM: Carolyn Copper /s/
Assistant Inspector General for Office of Program Evaluation

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

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) is starting preliminary research on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Watch List. This evaluation is included in our fiscal year 2013 Annual Plan.

The purpose of this memorandum is to confirm our mutual understanding about the objectives and scope of the evaluation, and the responsibilities of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and the OIG during the project. The OIG's preliminary research objective is to determine how the EPA uses the Watch List as a tool to target enforcement actions and whether there are opportunities for improvement.

The anticipated benefits of this project are potential improvements in the protection of human health and the environment by ensuring the EPA is enforcing environmental laws and cleaning up communities. In addition, our review may identify process efficiencies that enable the EPA to accomplish its objectives with fewer resources or to more effectively apply existing resources.

We plan to perform work within the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance, and the enforcement and media program offices in EPA regions and states as necessary. We plan to request Watch List data during preliminary research. The project will be conducted using applicable generally accepted government auditing standards.

The OIG product line director, Dan Engelberg, and project manager, Khadija Walker, will supervise the project. We will provide updates on a regular basis via monthly meetings and email correspondence with agreed-upon contacts from your office.

We will contact you to arrange a kickoff meeting at a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of the project. We will answer any questions that you may have 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. At the kickoff meeting, we will also be interested in hearing about any of your concerns.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 566-0829 or carolyn.copper@epa.gov, or Dan Engelberg at (202) 566-0830 or engelberg.dan@epa.gov, if you or your staff members have any questions.

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