



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, DC 20460

**OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL**

November 13, 2012

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Hotline Complaint – Drinking Water Treatment Plant at the Fort Belknap Indian Community
Assignment No. OA-FY13-0076

FROM: Melissa M. Heist /s/
Assistant Inspector General for Audit

TO: Jim Martin
Regional Administrator
Region 8

On March 22, 2012, the Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a hotline complaint on the construction of the Drinking Water Treatment Plant (DWTP) at the Fort Belknap Indian Community. After conducting preliminary fact finding on the merits, we decided to open an assignment to address the hotline complaint. Specifically, we will review whether the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) followed applicable criteria in awarding and monitoring funds to the Fort Belknap DWTP and whether EPA met its responsibilities under the Safe Drinking Water Act. We also plan to refer the complaint to the U.S. Department of Agriculture OIG, given the Department's greater investment of funds and oversight role in the treatment plant construction.

We will arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and planned work, ideally within the next 15 days. We will answer any questions you have about the review process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and products you should expect.

If you or your staff has any questions, please contact me at (202) 566-0899; the Product Line Director, Patrick Gilbride, at (303) 312-6969 or Gilbride.Patrick@epa.gov; or the Project Manager, Erin Barnes-Weaver, at (303) 312-6871 or Barnes-Weaver.Erin@epa.gov.

cc: Howard Cantor, Deputy Regional Administrator
Martin Hestmark, Assistant Regional Administrator, Ecosystems Protection and Remediation (EPR)
Callie Videtich, Acting Assistant Regional Administrator, Office of Partnerships and Regulatory Assistance (OPRA)

Judy Wong, Assistant Regional Administrator, Technical and Management Services (TMS)

Alfreda Mitre, Director, Tribal Assistance Program, OPRA

Bert Garcia, Director, Ecosystems Protection Program, EPR

Julie DalSoglio, Director, Montana Operations Office, Region 8

Wayne Anthofer, Audit Liaison, Region 8

Arthur A. Elkins, Jr. Inspector General, OIG

Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General, OIG

Melissa Heist, Assistant Inspector General for Audit, OIG

Aracely Nunez-Mattocks, Chief of Staff, OIG

Alan Larsen, Counsel, OIG

Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation, OIG

Eileen McMahon, Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs, OIG

Richard Eyerhmann, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit, OIG