



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

January 21, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Review of EPA Response and Oversight Regarding Drinking Water Contamination
in Flint, Michigan

FROM: Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General
Office of Program Evaluation

TO: Susan Hedman, Regional Administrator
Region 5

Joel Beauvais, Deputy Assistant Administrator
Office of Water

Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research into the Flint, Michigan, drinking water contamination. The OIG's objective for this assignment is to examine the circumstances of, and the EPA's response to, the contamination in the city of Flint's community water system, including the EPA's exercise of its oversight authority.

We plan to conduct work at Region 5, EPA headquarters, the state of Michigan, and other locations relevant to this review. We will request documents and interview relevant managers and staff in these locations and elsewhere as necessary. Throughout the project, as appropriate, we will provide updates on a regular basis. In carrying out this work, the OIG will take all reasonable efforts to minimize disruption to the EPA's ongoing work on the Flint water contamination matter.

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 the Semiannual Report to Congress.

Questions related to this project can be addressed to me at copper.carolyn@epa.gov or (202) 566-0829; or to Kathlene Butler, Director, Water Evaluations, at (404) 562-9736 or butler.kathlene@epa.gov.

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