MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification: Evaluation of EPA’s Pesticide Import Inspections
Project No. OPE-FY16-0025

FROM: Jeffrey Harris, Director
Toxics, Chemical Management and Pollution Prevention Evaluations

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

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 to assess the EPA’s inspections of, and enforcement against, illegal pesticide imports.

Our objective is to determine whether the EPA’s Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) import inspection program is effectively deterring, identifying and confiscating illegal pesticide imports, to protect human health and the environment. This includes whether the EPA is effectively identifying pesticide imports for inspection and sampling, and whether the EPA is taking appropriate enforcement action against noncompliant imports.

The OIG plans to conduct work at EPA headquarters and selected regional offices, and at any other applicable sites. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are reduced risks to human health and the environment from illegal pesticide imports. This project is included in the OIG’s fiscal year 2016 Annual Plan.

We will contact your audit liaison to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of our project. We would also be particularly 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 regular basis via email to the point(s) 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 the 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 Jee Kim, Project Manager, at (913) 551-7009 or kim.jee@epa.gov.

cc:  Cynthia Giles, Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
    Lawrence Starfield, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
    Shari Wilson, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
    Louise P. Wise, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
    Gwendolyn Spriggs, Audit Liaison, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance
    Janet Weiner, Audit Liaison, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention
    Nic Grzegozewski, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
    Melissa Harrison, Press Secretary, Office of Public Affairs
    Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General
    Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
    Aracely Nunez-Mattocks, Chief of Staff, OIG
    Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General
    Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit
    Carolyn Copper, Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
    Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
    Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Program Evaluation
    Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
    Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, OIG