



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

April 22, 2016

**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](mailto:harris.jeffrey@epa.gov); or Jee Kim, Project Manager, at (913) 551-7009 or [kim.jee@epa.gov](mailto: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