



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

May 5, 2016

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Audit on Status of Corrective Actions to Address Operational Deficiencies at the
EPA's National Center for Radiation Field Operations.
Project No. OA-FY16-0179

FROM: John Trefry, Director, Forensic Audits
Office of Audit

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Trefry", is placed over the "FROM:" line of the memorandum.

TO: Mike Flynn, Director
Office of Radiation and Indoor Air
Office of Air and Radiation

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the status of EPA actions to address longstanding operational deficiencies relative to quality assurance requirements and staff technical competencies at the National Center for Radiation Field Operations (NCRFO). This assignment is being initiated based on a referral from the EPA OIG Office of Investigations.

During the preliminary research phase, we will perform work to answer the following questions:

- Has the EPA taken action to address the conclusions and recommendations contained in the 2014 "GAP" assessment conducted at NCRFO relative to EPA quality assurance requirements?
- Has the EPA's actions on the conclusions and recommendations in the 2014 assessment report impacted NCRFO's ability to perform its current roles and responsibilities?
- Has the EPA implemented additional controls and/or oversight at NCRFO to monitor and/or further assess NCRFO's operations?

The OIG plans to conduct its work at the NCRFO office in Las Vegas, Nevada. We will interview managers and staff regarding their work. We will also review related policies, procedures, guidance documents and other information used by NCRFO to perform its roles and responsibilities. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our work. The anticipated benefits of this project are to improve operational efficiency.

We anticipate starting our work in mid to late May. We will contact the audit coordinator to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose of the preliminary research phase of

the assignment. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any questions 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. Throughout the project, we will provide updates on a regular basis through a monthly meeting, via email, phone or video conference.

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.

The project will be supervised by me, and the Project Manager will be Angela Bennett. Should you or your staff have any questions, please contact me at (202) 566-2474 or trefry.john@epa.gov; or Angela Bennett, Project Manager, at (404) 562-9844 or bennett.angela@epa.gov.

cc: Janet McCabe, Acting Assistant Administrator, Office of Air and Radiation
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