



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

OFFICE OF
INSPECTOR GENERAL

July 2, 2018

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Project Notification:
Office of Research and Development Support of and Alignment with
Regional Science Programs
Project No. OA&E-FY18-0247

FROM: Patrick Gilbride, Director /s/
Environmental Research Directorate
Office of Audit and Evaluation

TO: Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science
and EPA Science Advisor

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin work to assess the Office of Research and Development's (ORD's) support of and alignment with regional science programs. This project is based on the OIG's internal planning process.

The objectives are to determine whether the ORD's support of regional science programs helps accomplish the EPA's mission, and whether results of regional science initiatives impact the agency's decision-making. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are to identify best practices and improve any program weaknesses.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objectives and the purpose 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, as agreed upon at the kickoff meeting.

Before or at the kickoff meeting, please provide the following information:

- Any policies, procedures or guidance documents for Regional Science Liaisons.
- For Regions 4, 5, 7 and 8:
 - All Regional Applied Research Efforts (RARE) projects from fiscal years 2014 through 2018:
 - 1) Project title,
 - 2) Names of ORD and regional project leads,
 - 3) Status (active, completed), and
 - 4) Completion date or projected completion date.

- All Regional Sustainability and Environmental Sciences (RESES) projects from fiscal years 2014 through 2018:
 - 1) Project title,
 - 2) Names of ORD and regional project leads,
 - 3) Status (active, completed), and
 - 4) Completion date or projected completion date.

We respectfully note that the OIG is authorized by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, to have timely access to personnel and all materials necessary to complete its objectives. We will request that you resolve the situation 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*.

I will supervise the project and the Project Manager will be Erin Barnes-Weaver. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (303) 312-6969 or gilbride.patrick@epa.gov, or Erin Barnes-Weaver at (302) 312-6871 or barnes-weaver.erin@epa.gov.

cc: Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff
Henry Darwin, Chief of Operations
Bruce Rodan, Associate Director for Science, ORD
Chris Robbins, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management, ORD
Richard Yamada, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development, ORD
Mary Ellen Radzikowski, Acting Associate Assistant Administrator, ORD
Michael Slimak, National Program Director, Sustainable and Healthy Communities, ORD
Andrew Geller, Deputy National Program Director, Sustainable and Healthy Communities, ORD
Maggie LaVay, Regional Science Program Chief, ORD
Valerie Blank, Regional Science Program Coordinator, ORD
Maureen Hingeley, Auditor Follow-Up Coordinator, ORD
Bobbie Trent, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator
Nancy Grantham, Principal Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10
Arthur A. Elkins Jr., Inspector General
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General
Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General
Kevin Christensen, Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Patrick Sullivan, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations
Edward Shields, Assistant Inspector General for Management
Richard Eyermann, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Christine El-Zoghbi, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Audit and Evaluation
Jennifer Kaplan, Deputy Assistant Inspector General for Congressional and Public Affairs
Jeffrey Lagda, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General
Tia Elbaum, Congressional and Media Liaison, Office of Inspector General