



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 30, 2018

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
Implementation of the EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy  
Project No. OA&E-FY18-0272

**FROM:** Patrick Gilbride, Director /s/  
Environmental Research Programs Directorate  
Office of Audit & Evaluation

**TO:** Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science  
and EPA Science Advisor  
Office of Research and Development

Francesca T. Grifo, EPA Scientific Integrity Official  
Office of Research and Development

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the implementation of the EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy. This project is self-initiated as part of OIG's planning process.

The OIG's objective is to determine whether the EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy is being implemented as intended to assure scientific integrity throughout the EPA. In particular, the project will examine the following areas:

- (1) Extent and type of employee concerns, if any, with scientific integrity at the EPA.
- (2) Employee awareness of the EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy, including the process for reporting potential violations.
- (3) Reasons potential violations may not be reported.
- (4) Adjudication process in general and any concerns (e.g., satisfaction with complaint resolution, timeliness of resolution and other process-related issues).

Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are to identify and address any barriers to achieving the Scientific Integrity Policy's stated purpose, which is "to ensure scientific integrity throughout the EPA and promote scientific and ethical standards, including quality standards; communications with the public; the use of peer review and advisory committees; and professional development."

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective 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 as agreed upon at this meeting.

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*.

The project will be supervised by me, and the Project Manager will be Jim Kohler. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (303) 312-6969 or [gilbride.patrick@epa.gov](mailto:gilbride.patrick@epa.gov), or Jim Kohler at (202) 566-1032 or [kohler.james@epa.gov](mailto:kohler.james@epa.gov).

cc: Henry Darwin, Acting Deputy Administrator  
Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff  
Michael Molina, Special Advisor, Office of the Administrator  
Bruce Rodan, Associate Director for Science, Office of Research and Development  
Chris Robbins, Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Management, Office of Research and Development  
Richard Yamada, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Research and Development  
Mary Ellen Radzikowski, Acting Associate Assistant Administrator for Research and Development  
Maureen Hingeley, Audit Follow-Up Coordinator, Office of Research and Development  
Vincent Cogliano, Deputy to the Scientific Integrity Official, Office of Research and Development  
EPA Scientific Integrity Committee  
Bob Trent, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator  
Nancy Grantham, Principal Deputy Associate Administrator for Public Affairs  
Regional Audit Follow-Up Coordinators, Regions 1–10  
Charles Sheehan, Deputy Inspector General  
Alan Larsen, Counsel to the Inspector General  
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