



At a Glance

Why We Did This Project

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Office of Inspector General (OIG) received a hotline complaint about the status of the agency's corrective actions in response to OIG Report No. [11-P-0173](#), *EPA Promoted the Use of Coal Ash Products With Incomplete Risk Information*, dated March 23, 2011. We conducted this work to determine whether the corrective actions were completed.

The OIG's earlier report contained two recommendations for the EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM):

1. "Define and implement risk evaluation practices to determine the safety of the coal combustion residual (CCR) beneficial uses EPA promotes. (Note: CCR is also known as *coal ash*.)"
2. "Determine if further EPA action is warranted to address historical CCR structural fill applications, based on comments on the proposed rule and other information available to EPA."

This report addresses the following:

- *Cleaning up and revitalizing land.*

Send all inquiries to our public affairs office at (202) 566-2391 or visit www.epa.gov/oig.

Listing of [OIG reports](#).

EPA Finalized a Study of the Historical Applications of Coal Ash as Structural Fill

What We Found

The OLEM Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR) completed the corrective actions associated with Recommendations 1 and 2 in OIG Report No. [11-P-0173](#).

During this assignment, the ORCR informed us that it had developed an unpublished document titled *Information Assessment of Historical Structural Fill Applications*, dated May 27, 2016. This document details considerable efforts by the ORCR to address Recommendation 2 and states, "Thus, based on the available information reviewed and the availability of response authorities, EPA has determined that no further action to address historical CCR structural fill applications as a general issue is warranted at this time." The ORCR also concluded that existing statutory authorities are available to address environmental concerns that may arise at a historical CCR structural fill site.

The ORCR determined that no further EPA action is warranted to address historical structural fill applications.

The agency did not make the determination public by publishing it on the EPA's website. This type of transparency could provide information important to the public.

Recommendation and Agency Corrective Action

We recommend that the Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management publish the document titled *Information Assessment of Historical Structural Fill Applications*, dated May 27, 2016. The EPA agreed and completed the corrective action by publishing the document in an internet database called *RCRA Online*. (RCRA stands for *Resource Conservation and Recovery Act*.)