



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

August 21, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Project Notification:  
EPA's Administration of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act Program  
Project No. OA&E-FY19-0292

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John M. Trefry".

**FROM:** John Trefry, Director, Forensics Directorate  
Office of Audit and Evaluation

**TO:** Donna Vizian, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator  
Office of Mission Support

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to begin preliminary research on the EPA's administration of the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (FECA) program. This project is included in our fiscal year 2019 *Annual Plan*.

Our preliminary objective is to determine whether the EPA is effectively managing its FECA program to ensure that it pays only valid claims for continuation of benefits and that adequate case management exists. The OIG plans to conduct interviews with employees and management to obtain an understanding of the how the FECA program is administered, as well as the applicable policy and procedures followed. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our project. The anticipated benefits of this project are to improve the effectiveness of oversight and management within the EPA's FECA program.

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 through meetings and emails.

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 Leah Nikaidoh. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (202) 566-2474 or [trefry.john@epa.gov](mailto:trefry.john@epa.gov), or Leah Nikaidoh at (513) 487-2365 or [nikaidoh.leah@epa.gov](mailto:nikaidoh.leah@epa.gov).

cc: Henry Darwin, Acting Deputy Administrator  
Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff  
Michael Molina, Deputy Chief of Staff  
Kevin DeBell, Acting Deputy Chief of Staff  
Wesley Carpenter, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resources Management, Office of Mission Support  
Dan Coogan, Acting Director, Office of Resources and Business Operations, Office of Mission Support  
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