



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

OFFICE OF  
INSPECTOR GENERAL

October 30, 2019

**MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT:** Notification of Audit:  
Effectiveness of Clean Water Act to Protect from Plastic Pollution  
Project No. OA&E-FY19-0086

**FROM:** Kathlene Butler, Director  
Water Directorate  
Office of Audit and Evaluation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathlene Butler".

**TO:** David P. Ross, Assistant Administrator  
Office of Water

Jennifer Orme-Zavaleta, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Science  
Office of Research and Development

The Office of Inspector General (OIG) for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) plans to conduct fieldwork to evaluate the EPA's programs in the Office of Water and Office of Research and Development that address plastic pollution. This audit is included in our annual plan.

The OIG's objective is to identify the extent to which the EPA's existing Clean Water Act programs and Office of Research and Development initiatives address threats and risks to public health and the environment from plastic pollution within the waters of the United States. Applicable generally accepted government auditing standards will be used in conducting our audit. The anticipated benefits of this audit are improved operational efficiency and increased pollution identification.

We will contact you to arrange a mutually agreeable time to discuss our objective and the purpose of our audit. We would also be particularly interested in any areas of concern that you may have. We will answer any of your questions about the audit process, reporting procedures, methods used to gather and analyze data, and what we should expect of each other during the audit. Throughout the audit, we will provide updates on a regular basis.

To expedite our audit, please be ready to provide the following information at the entrance conference:

- Access to any strategic planning documents on the Trash Free Waters program.
- Scientific reports, research or other applicable EPA data on addressing plastic pollution.

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 audit, and the Project Manager will be Tim Roach. Any information related to the project should be addressed to me at (404) 562-9736 or [butler.kathlene@epa.gov](mailto:butler.kathlene@epa.gov), or Tim Roach at (312) 886-3026 or [roach.tim@epa.gov](mailto:roach.tim@epa.gov).

cc: Henry Darwin, Assistant Deputy Administrator  
Doug Benevento, Associate Deputy Administrator  
Ryan Jackson, Chief of Staff  
Michael Molina, Deputy Chief of Staff  
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Annette Morant, Agency Follow-Up Coordinator  
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