

EXPECTED REPORT ISSUANCE

January 2021

This section reflects the time frames within which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Inspector General currently expects to issue our ongoing audit and evaluation reports. The status of these time frames is subject to change.

PROJECT	OIG OBJECTIVES	EXPECTED REPORT ISSUANCE (QUARTER AND FISCAL YEAR)
Hotline Complaint—Award of Contracts EP-W-18-007 and EP-W-18-008 and Equipment Procurement Under EP-W-07-024 2018, OA&E-FY19-0035	Determine whether (1) EPA contracts EP-W-18-007 and EP-W-18-008 were properly awarded in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation competition requirements and (2) equipment purchased under EPA contract EP-W-07-024 was properly purchased and transferred to current contracts in accordance with Federal Acquisition Regulation requirements.	2nd Quarter FY 2021
EPA Actions to Address Air Toxics Emissions Through Its Residual Risk and Technology Review Program 2019, OA&E-FY19-0091	Determine whether the EPA's Residual Risk and Technology Review process has sufficiently identified and addressed elevated cancer risks from air toxics emitted by facilities.	2nd Quarter FY 2021
Post-Closure Care at Hazardous Waste Units Closed with Waste in Place 2020, OA&E-FY-19-0323	Determine whether the EPA's oversight of hazardous waste units closed with waste in place verifies continued protection of human health and the environment.	2nd Quarter FY 2021
EPA's Compliance with Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014 2020, OA&E-FY20-0033	Determine whether the EPA is in compliance with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's FY 2020 Federal Information Security Modernization Act reporting metrics.	2nd Quarter FY 2021

<u>Evaluation of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's Compliance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014</u>	Determine the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's compliance with the Federal Information Security Modernization Act of 2014.	2nd Quarter FY 2021
2020, OA&E-FY20-0034		
<u>EPA's Working Capital Fund Operations Expenditures, and Rate Establishment</u>	Determine whether (1) the EPA's Working Capital Fund is operating efficiently by keeping expenditures low; (2) the rates established for various services are properly supported; and (3) allocations of costs to the Working Capital Fund are reasonable, allowable, and proper.	2nd Quarter FY 2021
2020, OA&E-FY20-0035		
<u>Action Development Process for Rulemaking</u>	Determine whether the EPA adhered to its Action Development Process for selected rulemakings.	2nd Quarter FY 2021
2019, OA&E-FY20-0067		
<u>EPA's Adherence to Pesticide Registration Risk Assessment Regulations, Policies and Procedures</u>	Determine the EPA's adherence to applicable regulations, policies, and procedures in assessing risks to human health and the environment in the pesticide registration process.	2nd Quarter FY 2021
2020, OA&E-FY20-0095		
<u>EPA's Oversight of Special Local Need Registrations Under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act</u>	Determine whether management controls within the Section 24(c) registration program effectively promote the EPA's goals of risk reduction and pollution prevention.	2nd Quarter FY 2021
2020, OA&E-FY20-0123		
<u>Evaluation of EPA's Information Systems' Compliance with Federal System Security Plans Requirements</u>	Determine whether (1) the EPA's System Security Plans are developed and updated in accordance with the standards published by the National	2nd Quarter FY 2021

2020, OA&E-FY20-0176	Institute of Standards and Technology and (2) specific elements within the System Security Plans allowed the EPA to make risk-based decisions to secure the Agency's network during the coronavirus pandemic.	
<u>Internal Controls Established to Implement Programs and Activities Funded Under the CARES Act</u>	Identify, document, and provide an initial assessment of the internal controls that the EPA has established to implement the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, known as the CARES Act.	2nd Quarter FY 2021
2020, OA&E-FY20-0234		
<u>Analysis of EPA Enforcement Results from FYs 2006 Through 2018</u>	Determine (1) the trends in EPA-led enforcement actions and enforcement results from fiscal years 2006 through 2018 and (2) the key factors explaining these trends and how they differ among EPA regions and environmental statutes.	3rd Quarter FY 2021
2019, OA&E-FY19-0030		
<u>EPA's Oversight of Synthetic Minor Sources</u>	Determine whether EPA oversight of state and local permitting programs is sufficient to assure that synthetic minor sources of air emissions comply with the emission or operational limits in their air permits.	3rd Quarter FY 2021
2019, OA&E-FY19-0093		
<u>Travel Card Program Audit</u>	Determine (1) the EPA's internal controls over travel cards and (2) the risk of illegal, improper, or erroneous use of travel cards.	3rd Quarter FY 2021
2019, OA&E-FY20-0097		
<u>EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Reviews</u>	Determine whether the EPA's reviews of state-proposed National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits verify that the permits adhere to Clean Water Act and regulatory requirements.	3rd Quarter FY 2021
2019, OA&E-FY19-0340		

<u>Agency Use of Blanket Purchase Agreements</u>	<p>Determine whether (1) blanket purchase agreements comply with applicable laws, regulations, contract provisions, and other requirements; (2) the EPA maximizes its use of current blanket purchase agreements to achieve savings; and (3) other blanket purchase agreement opportunities exist.</p>	<p>3rd Quarter FY 2021</p>
<p>2020, OA&E FY20-0096</p>		
<u>Evaluating EPA's Response to Findings from Audits and Inspections Related to Its National Enforcement Investigations Center</u>	<p>Determine whether the Office of Criminal Enforcement, Forensics and Training and the National Enforcement Investigations Center are addressing findings and implementing corrective actions from audits, inspections, and documented concerns related to the NEIC.</p>	<p>3rd Quarter FY 2021</p>
<p>2020, OA&E-FY20-0099</p>		
<u>Status of Clean Air Act State Implementation Plan Submittals and Approvals</u>	<p>Determine (1) the number of Clean Air Act State Implementation Plans awaiting EPA approval; (2) the factors causing delays in SIP approvals; (3) the extent to which states have not submitted the required SIPs to the EPA; (4) potential impact of delays in SIP processing in achieving the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Standards; and (5) steps the EPA is taking to address delays in SIP processing.</p>	<p>3rd Quarter FY 2021</p>
<p>2020, OA&E-FY20-0125</p>		
<u>Review of Northbridge Environmental Invoices and Work Assignments Performed Under Contract No. EP-C-16-001</u>	<p>Determine whether (1) the EPA properly approved, paid, and accounted for charges submitted by Northbridge for work in Region 9 for the States of Hawaii and California under Contract No. EP-C-16-001; and (2) Northbridge provided timely and acceptable deliverables, as specified in Contract No. EP-C-16-001 and associated work plans.</p>	<p>3rd Quarter FY 2021</p>
<p>2020, OA&E-FY20-0262</p>		

<u>EPA's Actions on Final Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicles Rule Part 2</u>	Determine whether the EPA's actions on the final Safer Affordable Fuel-Efficient Vehicles Rule Part 2 were consistent with requirements, including those pertaining to transparency, record keeping, and docketing, and followed the Agency's process for developing final regulatory actions.	3rd Quarter FY 2021
2020, OA&E-FY20-0269		
<u>The Office of the Chief Financial Officer's Oversight, Monitoring, and Compliance with Agencywide Internal Control Requirements</u>	Determine whether the Office of the Chief Financial Officer is conducting agencywide entity level risk assessments and implementing internal controls for annual and supplemental appropriations that comply with federal and Agency requirements.	3rd Quarter FY 2021
2020, OA-FY21-0003		
<u>EPA's Fiscal Year 2020 Compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019</u>	Determine whether the EPA is in compliance with the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019.	3rd Quarter FY 2021
2020, OA-FY21-0013		
<u>Audit of EPA's Compliance with Federal Requirements to Making Information Accessible Through Its Public Websites and Digital Services</u>	Determine whether the EPA's public websites and digital services comply with selected relevant federal laws and policies, as outlined in Office of Management and Budget Memorandum M-17-06, <i>Policies for Federal Agency Public Websites and Digital Services</i> .	3rd Quarter FY 2021
2020, OA-FY21-0015		
<u>The CSB's Fiscal Year 2020 Reporting of Improper Payments</u>	Determine if the CSB complied with the Payment Integrity Information Act of 2019 for FY 2020.	3rd Quarter FY 2021
2020, OA&E-FY21-0025		

RECENT OIG WORK

October–December 2020

This section reflects work recently published by the EPA OIG.

PROJECT	FINDINGS
<p><u>Evaluation of EPA’s Compliance with the Executive Order 13950 on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping</u></p> <p>Report No. 21-E-0044, December 29, 2020</p>	<p>We found that the EPA is compliant with the requirements of Executive Order 13950.</p>
<p><u>Evaluation of CSB’s Compliance with Executive Order 13950 on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping</u></p> <p>Report No. 21-E-0043, December 29, 2020</p>	<p>We found that the CSB is compliant with the requirements of Executive Order 13950 at this time.</p>
<p><u>EPA Needs to Substantially Improve Oversight of Its Military Leave Processes to Prevent Improper Payments</u></p> <p>Report No. 21-P-0042, December 28, 2020</p>	<p>We found, among other things, that the EPA has not fully complied with federal laws related to military leave, reservist differential, and military offset. This occurred because Agency management did not establish effective internal controls to implement these laws. The EPA instead relied on reservists, their supervisors, and the Agency’s federal payroll provider to comply with federal requirements.</p>
<p><u>EPA Needs to Improve Its Planning and Management of Laboratory Consolidation Efforts</u></p> <p>Report No. 21-E-0033, December 7, 2020</p>	<p>We found, among other things, that the EPA needs to improve how it plans and manages its laboratory consolidation efforts. For the three projects we reviewed, we found that the Office of Mission Support did not develop a master plan to guide the Ann Arbor laboratory consolidation effort. As of February 2020, the Agency had expended over</p>

\$2 million for this project without having a master plan. The EPA also did not document key decisions related to laboratory consolidation activities.

[Region 2's Hurricanes Irma and Maria Response Efforts in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands Show the Need for Improved Planning, Communications, and Assistance for Small Drinking Water Systems](#)

Report No. 21-P-0032, December 3, 2020

We found, among other things, that the EPA's internal review processes delayed distribution of public health announcements, such as instructions on how to treat drinking water to reduce risk of illness. In addition, Region 2 did not fully engage its local staff in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands during hurricane preparations.

[EPA Needs to Improve Oversight of Invoice Reviews and Contractor Performance Evaluation](#)

Report #21-E-0031, December 1, 2020

We did not find evidence that the EPA paid Attain for information security services that were either not performed or performed by other EPA contractors. However, we found, among other things, that the EPA did not perform certain contract management duties for the Attain contract.

[EPA's Initial Plans for Returning to the Office Incorporate CDC Guidance but Differ by Location](#)

Report No. 21-E-0030, November 30, 2020

We found, among other things, that all 13 locations we reviewed developed reopening plans to protect the health and safety of their returning workforces. These reopening plans incorporate the elements outlined in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Interim Guidance, but how they implement the following health and safety measures outlined in the CDC's Interim Guidance differs substantially in many respects: face coverings, social distancing, ventilation systems, cleaning and disinfecting, interaction with visitors and non-EPA employees, and public transportation.

[Semiannual Report to Congress: April 1, 2020, to September 30, 2020](#)

Report No. EPA-350-R-20-002, November 25, 2020

N/A

[CSB Discontinued Information Recovery Testing and Off-Site Backup Storage During the Coronavirus Pandemic](#)

Report #21-E-0016, November 18, 2020

The EPA OIG contractor, SB & Company, found that the CSB did not perform disaster recovery testing on major information systems during FY 2020 and did not store copies of backup media at an off-site location.

[Audit of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board's Fiscal Years 2020 and 2019 Financial Statements](#)

Report No. 21-F-0015, November 16, 2020

The EPA OIG contractor, Allmond & Company, rendered an unmodified opinion on the CSB's financial statements for fiscal years 2020 and 2019, meaning that the statements were fairly presented and free of material misstatements.

[EPA's Fiscal Years 2020 and 2019 \(Restated\) Consolidated Financial Statements](#)

Report No. 21-F-0014, November 16, 2020

We rendered an unmodified opinion on the EPA's consolidated financial statements for fiscal years 2020 and 2019 (restated), meaning they were fairly presented and free of material misstatement.

RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC

The EPA OIG is meeting the new challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic—that is, the SARS-CoV-2 virus and resultant COVID-19 disease—by initiating audits, evaluations, and investigations related to the pandemic’s impact on the EPA’s and the CSB’s missions to protect people, public health, and the environment.

[Pandemic Report featuring EPA OIG pandemic-relevant work](#)



[Webpage featuring EPA OIG pandemic-related work](#)

