




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

THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

September 27, 2021

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Response to Planned Corrective Actions for Office of Inspector General
Report No. [21-E-0163](#), *EPA Has Reduced Its Backlog of State Implementation Plans Submitted Prior to 2013 but Continues to Face Challenges in Taking Timely Final Actions on Submitted Plans*, issued June 14, 2021

FROM: Sean W. O'Donnell 

TO: Joseph Goffman, Acting Assistant Administrator
Office of Air and Radiation

Thank you for your memorandum dated August 19, 2021, which outlines revised planned corrective actions and an estimated milestone date for the unresolved Recommendation 2 in the subject Office of Inspector General report. The other three recommendations—Recommendations 1, 3, and 4—were previously resolved or completed.

Recommendation 2 stated that the Office of Air and Radiation should “develop and implement a plan to address regional workload disparities to ensure that State Implementation Plan submittals can be acted upon in a timely manner.” In your August 19, 2021 memorandum, you stated, in part, that “EPA will seek additional resources for the SIP [State Implementation Plan] workload as necessary depending on the outcome of the appropriation process” and that “Regions with some available capacity may be able to engage in worksharing with other Regions.” Beyond intentions such as to “seek” additional resources or statements that worksharing “may” be possible, your proposed corrective actions do not demonstrate what concrete steps the Agency will actually take to ensure timely action on State Implementation Plan submittals.

Accordingly, the corrective actions do not meet the intent of the recommendation. We therefore consider Recommendation 2 unresolved. EPA Manual 2750 requires that recommendations be resolved promptly.

We will post this memorandum on our public website at www.epa.gov/oig.

cc: Elizabeth Shaw, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation
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